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WORLD CUP SPECIAL

- Venues
- Opening shots
- Fixtures
- Lithuania's challenge to Bingham

SPOTLIGHT ON

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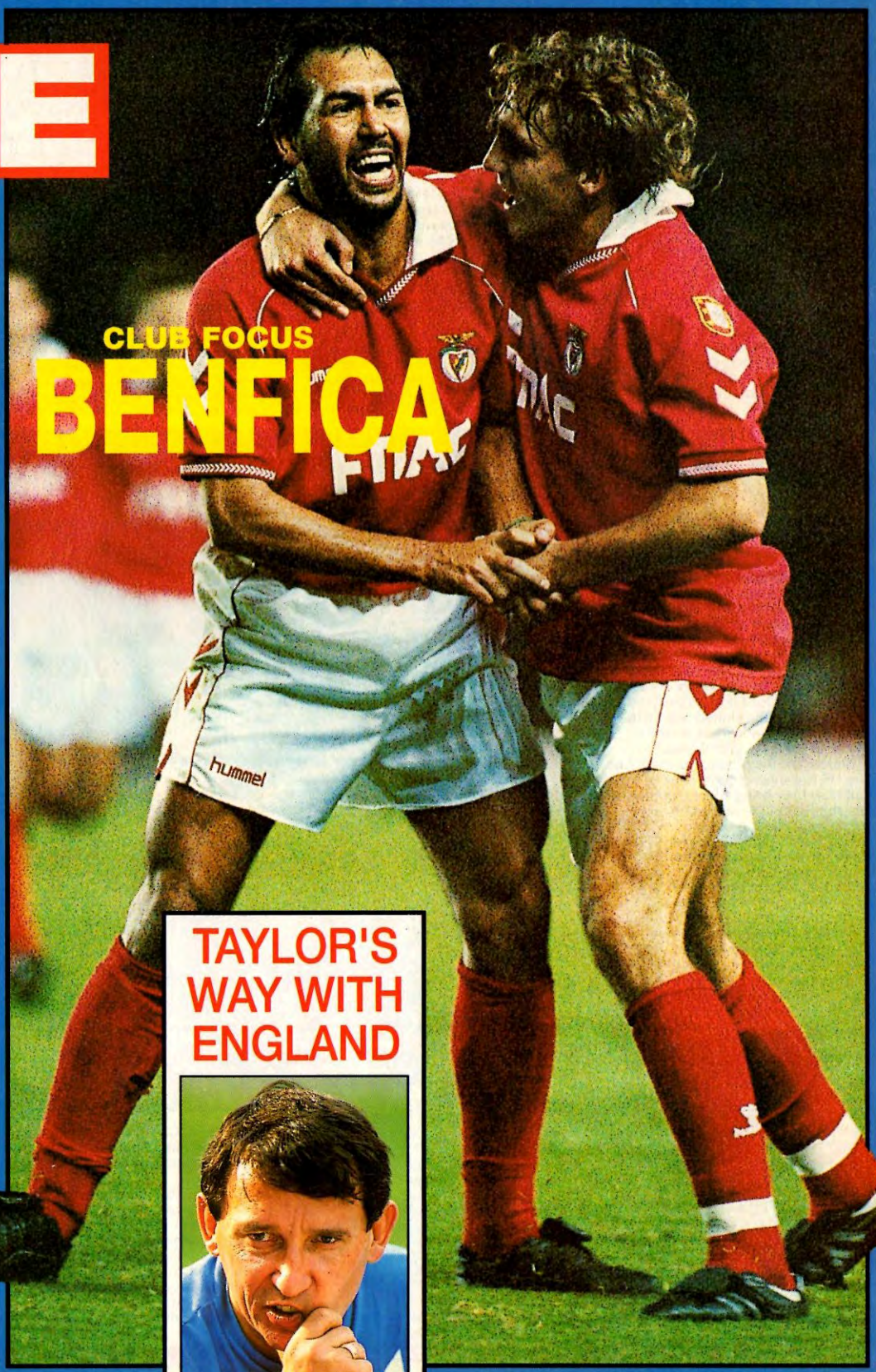


CLUB FOCUS

BENFICA

TAYLOR'S WAY WITH ENGLAND

WE'RE OFF!

From MICHAEL **LEWIS** in Santo Domingo

Puerto Rico give the 1994 World Cup a winning start

THE 1994 World Cup is up and running.
Puerto Rico's 2-1 victory away to the Dominican Republic on Saturday, March 21, provided the point of no return. The snowball has started down the mountain towards the avalanche of action in the United States in just over two years' time.

Skipper Mark Lugris, a New York City restaurant manager, wrote a small footnote to soccer history by scoring the first goal — for Puerto Rico — in the 23rd minute.

But, if this match was any indication, then the real winners of the World Cup will be fax paper manufacturers and telephone companies.

In the days and hours before kick-off the international phone lines were burning up between the Caribbean countries and FIFA headquarters in Zurich, regarding the Puerto Ricans' player eligibility.

After a final fax from FIFA ordering the match to be played, Puerto Rico prevailed and escaped the Estadio Olympico Juan Pablo Duarte with their first World Cup victory after six losing attempts, starting the 20-month qualifying process that will take 582 games to whittle down 138 countries to 22 finalists.

The match itself was pedestrian, in contrast to its controversial build-up. As it turned out, the Puerto Rica Olympic Committee started the wheels rolling, claiming its national team did not truly represent Puerto Rico.

Supported

Puerto Rico have 14 mainland Americans in their squad, mostly from amateur and semi-professional teams in the New York area, nine of whom have no connection with Puerto Rico by heritage or residency. The Puerto Rican federation supported by FIFA, says that a player needs only a US passport to be eligible to play for Puerto Rico since Puerto Ricans are US citizens.

Puerto Rico was forced to use New Yorkers after the team boycotted training in protest at the dismissal of Victor Hugo Barros in December. Roberto Monroig, president of the Puerto Rican federation, asked Arnie Ramirez, the coach of the Long Island University soccer team, for help, and he came through with 14 players.

The acid test on eligibility came one hour before the match when FIFA representative Richard Ramcharan of Trinidad and Tobago inspected the Puerto Rican players' passports without comment. But before leaving, Ramcharan reminded coach Oscar Rosa that dissent from the bench was prohibited, to play fair and that the game would start at four o'clock.

Several hours later, the Dominicans were claiming unfair play. "Of course we will protest," said coach Benhard Zgoll. "The United States have a team in the World Cup. A country cannot participate with two teams."

Despite using a defensive 5-4-1 formation, Puerto Rico dominated the first half against the Dominicans, whose inexperienced line-up included 16-year-old forward Omar Cuevas and had an average age of 19.

The Puerto Ricans had little trouble retaining possession in the hosts' half, continually intercepting the Dominicans clearances and pushing the ball forward toward goalkeeper Rafael Caminero. Their finishing touch, however, was non-existent.

They finally made their mark in the 23rd minute. Left-back and captain Mark Lugris, whose mother is Puerto Rican, had the honour of scoring the first goal of the tournament. Lugris, who plays for the N.Y. Hota/Bavarians of the semi-professional Northeastern Super Soccer League, fired in a 15-yard shot that bounced in off the post.

The visitors added a second in the 57th, when Ramiro Borja shot home a low, 22-yard shot from the right.

Ironically, it was the supposed hardened Puerto Rican side who cracked in the final 30 minutes especially after they allowed a gift goal in the 68th minute after a long punt by Caminero was misjudged by the defence. Dinardo Rodriguez ran onto the ball and headed it home.

"We lost our composure in the end," said Lugris, draped in a blue-white-and-red Puerto Rican flag, after the match. "It was a bad goal."

The match was a rather informal affair. Estadio Olympico, an 18-year-old structure that has seen better days, hardly was the ideal site for the opening of a tournament that is supposed to boost the sport in the US.

The parched pitch was hard and uneven. The scoreboard did not work. Neither did phones at the adjacent federation headquarters. There were no press credentials as the media milled around the team benches.

Then there was the dressing room facilities or lack of them. Ramirez moved the Puerto Rican squad from its original room (because of a nasty smell) to a delivery area underneath the stands.

Instead of using a blackboard to diagram last-minute strategy, Ramirez used water bottles, plastic cups and oranges to get his point across.

Obviously, the message got through to his troops. "We showed a lot of people we can play," he said. "There was so much pressure on them."

WORLD CUP OPENING MATCH CONCACAF REGION

(Caribbean North)
Pre-preliminary Round
March 21 — Santo Domingo
Dominican Republic 1 (Dinardo Rodriguez 68)
Puerto Rico 2 (Mark Lugris 23, Ramiro Borja 57)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Lancelotte Livingston (Jamaica)
Dominican Republic: Rafael Caminero — Arcadio Santana, Pedro Luis Tiburcio, Efrain Mojica, Jose Luis Garcia; Hector Marnol, Gerard Dipre (Juan Sanchez, Garcia 63rd), Nevin de la Cruz; Dinardo Rodriguez, Jose Miguel Cabral (Edward Cruz 46th), Omar Cuevas.
Puerto Rico: Chico Mieles — Milton Espinoza, Mark Lugris, Martin Alvarez, Tommy Valles, George Nazario; Stan Koziol, Franco Paonessa, Manuel Colon, (Anthony Vaughan, 55th, Fernando Santiago, 93rd); Ramiro Borja, Robert Milner.

'NO NEW YORK...NO WORLD CUP'

By KEIR **RADNEDGE**

AN EXTRAORDINARY warning from FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter (below) accompanied the announcement of the nine venues for the 1994 World Cup finals.

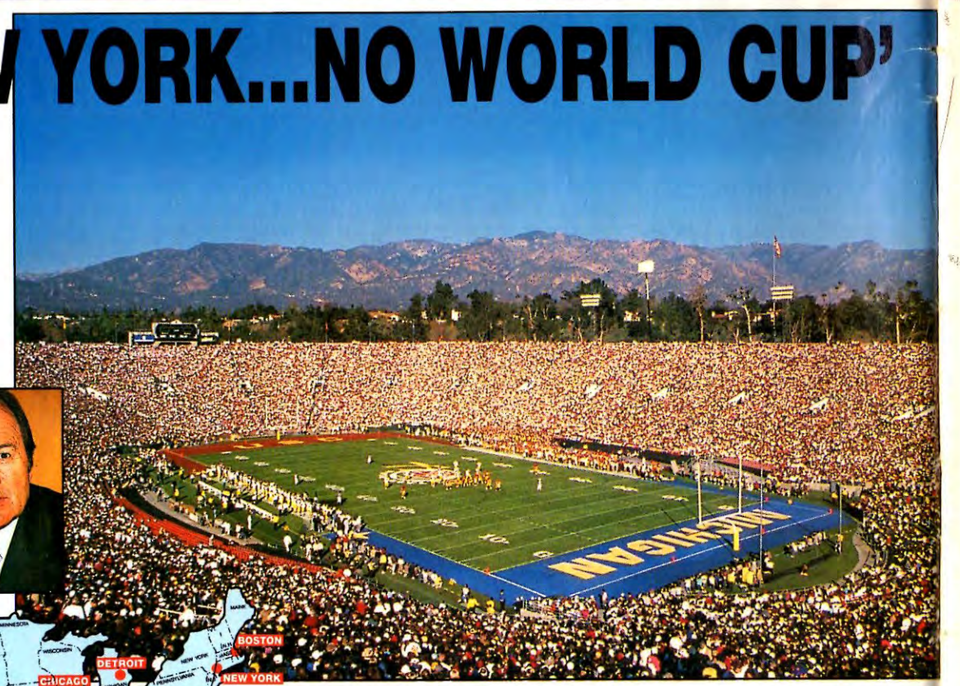
Commenting on the controversial inclusion of Giants Stadium, East Ritherford, as the NewYork area site, Blatter said: "for FIFA to bring the World Cup to the United States the inclusion of New York is a 'must' . . . No New York, no World Cup."

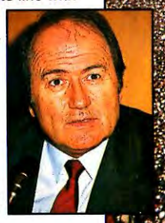
Blatter left the stadium owners and the US organising committee to sort out how they bring Giants into line with the regulation 75-yard pitch width required for international football. Earlier it had been suggested FIFA would accept a narrow pitch because of the prohibitive cost of building a platform and extending a "platform" pitch into the lower seats. Blatter made it clear this is not the case.

The continuing confusion over Giants stadium means that the Rose Bowl (right) in Pasadena, California, is favourite to stage the Final though no decision on match allocations will be announced until July.

An innovative choice was that of the Pontiac Silverdome, at Detroit, for the first indoor matches at the finals. Surprise omission was the Joe Robbiestadium in Miami, which had been built with the World Cup partly in mind. Baseball scheduling means JRS would be available for only three matches. Unfortunately, the reduction from 12 to nine in the number of venues (saving around £30 million) means each stadium will be needed for at least four games.

The venues (and stadia): Washington (RFK or a new stadium), Los Angeles (Rose Bowl, Pasadena), Dallas (Cotton Bowl), Detroit (Silverdome, Pontiac), Chicago (Soldier Field), New York (Giants Stadium, East Rutherford, New Jersey), San Francisco (Stanford, Palo Alto), Orlando (Citrus Bowl) and Boston (Sullivan Stadium, Foxboro).





The 1994 World Cup venues

Benfica in the dark over stadium of light

By KEIR **RADNEDGE**

BENFICA are upset at the hidden costs of staging this season's Cup-winners' Cup Final on May 6.

The Portuguese champions have been told they must buy a standby electricity generator to meet UEFA's safety standards — drastically revised in the wake of the Heysel stadium disaster in Brussels in 1985.

Benfica estimate the cost at £250,000 and have applied to the Portuguese federation and UEFA for grants to help foot the bill. The club have also been asked to widen some of their spectator gates and ensure policing is increased.

Club vice-president Vitor Vasques said: "We were very surprised. We have a standby generator which is apparently not up to standard. But we have never had any problems with electricity supplies. Such a thing is inconceivable. Our ground is not known as the Stadium of Light for nothing."

The Estadio da Luz (above) was built with money raised by membership subscription in 1954 with an original capacity of 60,000. In 1985 it was enlarged and now, with a capacity of 130,000, is the largest football stadium in Europe.

The ground was packed last year for the Final of the World Youth Cup. The match went off without any crowd problems. Ironically, considering UEFA's safety strictures, club officials do not expect any more than 30,000 fans at the Cup-winners' Cup Final.

Selected

Benfica were selected by UEFA earlier this season but the nomination was accompanied by a proviso that a security inspection had to be undertaken before confirmation.

The inspection was carried out by Ernie Walker, the retired police chief who advises UEFA on security. It was recommendations made on the basis of his report which upset the club.

Vasques had heard rumours that Paris and Munich had been considered as alternative venues for the Cup-winners' Cup Final should Benfica not prove suitable.

He added: "We have never staged one of the major European finals before — except when our club was involved in the UEFA Cup Final in 1983. It is a matter of prestige for us that the Final should go ahead. We are confident UEFA will be satisfied."

The Lisbon police department says it has already sent UEFA a guarantee regarding security, a positive initiative considering the problems Sweden has found. There federation and police cannot agree who foots the security bill.

That was one reason why a decision on who hosts the 1996 event was deferred until next month by UEFA. England had been hot favourites but the delay — and the decision to stay with an eight-team finals — means the bids of both Holland and Portugal should not now be discounted.

WHAT'S ON?

BALTIC soccer comes out of the cold on April 8, when Latvia travel to Bucharest for a friendly with Romania — their first international match for more than 50 years.

THURSDAY, APRIL 2
International: Denmark v Norway (Arhus).

SATURDAY, APRIL 4
International: US v China (Palo Alto).

SUNDAY, APRIL 5
Olympic qualifiers: Canada v Mexico (Burnaby, BC), US v Honduras (St Louis).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8
International: Romania v Latvia (Bucharest).

SUNDAY, APRIL 12
Olympic qualifier: Canada v Honduras (Burnaby, BC).

TUESDAY, APRIL 14
International: Austria v Lithuania (Vienna).

SUNDAY, APRIL 19
Olympic qualifier: Honduras v United States (San Pedro Sula).

TUESDAY, APRIL 21
Olympic qualifier: Mexico v Canada (Mexico City).

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22
World Cup qualifiers, Europe Group 3: Spain v Albania. **Group 4:** Belgium v Cyprus (Brussels).

SUNDAY, APRIL 26
Olympic qualifiers: Honduras v Canada (San Pedro Sula), US v Mexico (Bethlehem).

TUESDAY, APRIL 28
World Cup qualifier, Europe Group 3: Northern Ireland v Lithuania (Belfast).
International: Switzerland v Bulgaria.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29
International: Republic of Ireland v United States (Dublin).

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Irish bring Lithuania in out of the cold

World Cup date ends 55-year exile

REPORTERS: Hugh **Kitchin**, Perry **Menexis**, Paul **Moon**

NORTHERN IRELAND set the home countries' 1994 World Cup campaign under way — and could not be doing so with a more remarkable fixture.

Billy Bingham's men take on Lithuania — playing their first competitive match for more than 50 years and presenting opposition which reflects the huge upheavals which have thrown political and sporting boundaries up into the air in the last two years.

Lithuania is one of the three Baltic states which have come in out of the cold. Between the wars Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia were independent republics. Then they were overrun first by the Nazi Wehrmacht then by the Red Army. The sum of the invasions was the same: Lithuania (and the other two states) were wiped off the map of Europe.

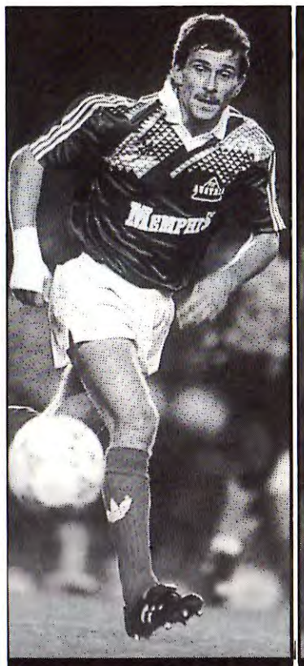
But . . . they were not wiped off the map of international football. At least, in theory. Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia had been members of FIFA in the inter-war years. Lithuania, for example, joined in 1923. Significantly, they never withdrew. For 50 years their membership was kept on ice. Forgotten but never cancelled.

Then, in the summer of last year, the Baltic states achieved independence from the collapsing Soviet Union. Their fledgling football federation was too slow to enter the World Cup before the entrance deadline. But FIFA's executive committee, for once recognising an anomaly, voted less than 24 hours before the qualifying draw in Madison Square Garden, New York, to include them in the draw.

All three emerged into separate qualifying groups. In the case of Lithuania that means qualifying group three along with Spain, the Irish Republic, Denmark, Latvia, Albania and, of course, Northern Ireland.

To prepare for their clash with the Irish, Lithuania make their international reappearance against Austria in Vienna's Praterstadion on April 14.

On that big night, three of their players will be treading home ground. The Prater is also the big-match home of their Viennese club, FK Austria. And, since November 1990, Lithuanian striker Valdas Ivanauskas and midfielder Arminas Narbekovas have been fixtures in the Austrian champions' line-up.



Narbekovas . . . FK Austria regular.

Ivanauskas . . . Soviet international.

More recently they have been joined by fellow-countryman Robertas Fridrikas.

These are not the only exiles. Ivanauskas told *WORLD SOCCER:* "Our squad is strewn across Europe. We recently had a get-together in Germany because there are four Lithuanians there, another four in Denmark, one in Israel and others in Austria. That's good, on one hand, but it also means our manager (Algimantas Liubinskas) will have problems getting a settled side."

Dictated

Ivanauskas and Narbekovas will admit that their journey to Vienna was not an easy one. It was a bureaucratic nightmare, in fact. The old Soviet transfer red tape dictated that both switch for three months to Lokomotiv Moscow before being allowed out of the country. Once in Austria, they soon made their mark. Ivanauskas rapidly won admirers. And not only in Austria.

Arsenal fans may remember his shot which twanged the bar at Highbury when the Gunners beat FK Austria in the first round of the Champions' Cup this season.

The World Cup challenge does not worry the Lithuanians too much. Ivanauskas says: "It's a very hard group. Of course, we're outsiders. But we don't think we'll do too badly. We should be OK against Latvia and Albania. And, in our home games, anything will be possible. We'll be trying our hardest."

Before the Second World War Lithuania was the least successful of the Baltic states. They lost their first match 5-0 at home to Estonia in Kaunas on June 24, 1923, then crashed 9-0 to Switzerland in the first round of the Paris Olympic Games a year later. Indeed, they won only one out of ten internationals against established European nations beyond the Baltics: that was against Finland in Kaunas — the national capital between 1920 and 1940 — in 1934 and by 1-0.

On September 3, 1937, Lithuania played what proved to be their last World Cup tie in nearly 55 years. They lost, 5-1 at home in Kaunas to Latvia. Inside left Paulionis scored Lithuania's consolation goal. Five years later, on October 13, 1940, Lithuania played what proved their last full international before the political and military ice age: they won by 4-3 at home to Latvia, in Kaunas.

Basketball, not soccer, was the nation's most popular sport but an independent Lithuanian League existed between 1922 and 1939. SC Kovacs of Kaunas were eight times champions and their neighbours, LFLS and Maisto, collected five titles between them. KSS, based in the ship-building centre of Klaipeda, ran up four in succession between 1928 amd 1931.

After the Soviet take-over, it was proposed that four Lithuanian clubs should compete in the top division. ODO Vilnius and Kalev Tallin (having previously been known as Dynamo Tallinn for a while) had only brief stints in the top fight, as did Daugava Riva.

Selected

Thus it was not until Zhalgiris Vilnius came along that Lithuanian football made its mark within the Soviet system. Formed as Dynamo Vilnius in 1947 and known as Spartak Vilnius between 1948 and 1961, Zhalgiris finally broke through with promotion to the Supreme Championship in 1982.

Three years later the first Lithuanian player to be selected for the Soviet national team, Sigitas Jakabauskas, made his international debut in a 2-0 win over Romania.

Full marks to Valeri Lobanovski, Ukrainian coach who doubled up as boss of Kiev Dynamo and the Soviet Union, for picking him.

Later Zhalgiris team-mates Viacheslav Sukristovas and Valdas Ivanauskas played for the Soviet national side as well.

As for the gold-medal-winning Olympic Games squad in Seoul in 1988, that included Zhalgiris' Arvydas Janonis and Arminas Narbekovas.

In due course, Zhalgiris qualified for European competition through the UEFA Cup. They lost to FK Austria in the first round in 1988-89. But the next season they improved somewhat — beating former UEFA Cup holders IFK Gothenburg before going down to Germany's Koln

Since then Zhalgiris have not built on foundation. Quite the reserve. In the spring of 1990 the Lithuanian federation decided, as a gesture towards the independence campaign, to withdraw all clubs from the Soviet federation and championship. The result was immediate: the best Lithuanian players went abroad. More particularly, they joined FK Austria — who maintained the friendship with Zhalgiris begun at their 1988 UEFA Cup meeting.

Lithuania

Lietuvos Kamuolio Zaidimu Sajunga

Founded: February 18, 1923.

Joined FIFA: May 21, 1923.

Membership reconfirmed: December 17, 1991.

World Cup record:

1934 qualifying round
June 29, 1933: 0-2 (H) v Sweden
1938 qualifying round
July 29, 1937: 2-4 (A) v Latvia
Sept 03, 1937: 1-5 (H) v Latvia

End of the road for England

Chased . . . two Genoa defenders pursue Liverpool's John Barnes.

ENGLISH football was battered in all directions in the latest round of European club competitions.

Tottenham (in the Cup-winners' Cup) and Liverpool (UEFA Cup) both bowed out and Anfield skipper Mark Wright limped out with a hamstring injury which ruled him out of England's European Championship warm-up in Czechoslovakia.

Liverpool were the first failures of the night. Home to Genoa, they lost 2-1 on the night and 4-1 on aggregate. This was only Liverpool's third home beating by foreign opposition in nearly 30 years. Wright was injured in the 14th minute. He was immediately substituted and manager Graeme Souness said later: "I'm no doctor but these things can take three to six weeks."

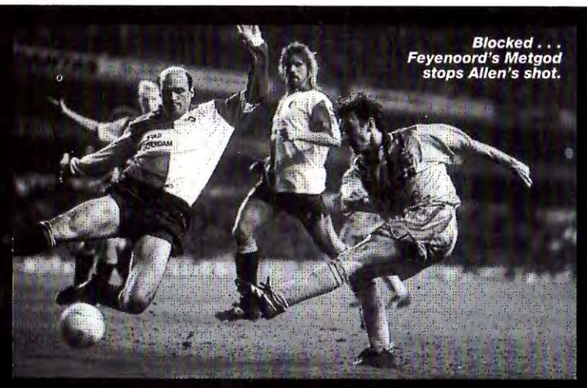
Wright will also miss Liverpool's FA Cup semi-final against Portsmouth on April 5.

Provided

Spurs, in the Cup-winners' Cup, never provided a serious threat to Feyenoord of Holland until the last frantic minutes. Paul Allen had one effort headed out from under the bar with goalkeeper Ed De Goey in no-man's land. This was Spurs' second cup disappointment in three weeks after their Rumblows Cup semi-final exit to Nottingham Forest.

However, English football has not lost all European interest. Wembley hosts the European Cup Final on May 20 with holders Red Star and Spanish champions Barcelona in pole position in the two semi-final mini-leagues.

Spanish champions Barcelona looked destined to celebrate their Olympic year with an appearance in the European Cup final after beating Kiev Dynamo 3-0 at home in semi-final group B — Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov scoring twice. Barcelona's victory — they are the only club unbeaten after four matches in the two four-team groups — put them three points clear of Sparta Prague with two matches left and leaves them requiring just a draw against Sparta on April 1 to secure a place in the Wembley final.



Blocked . . . Feyenoord's Metgod stops Allen's shot.

Benfica's hopes of reaching their third final in five years evaporated when they drew 1-1 with Sparta, leaving the Portuguese team four points behind Barcelona.

But, while Barcelona's group is looking more and more like a procession, the battle is still close in group A with champions Red Star Belgrade and Italian contenders Sampdoria locked together, with just one point between them.

The Yugoslavs, playing their "home" tie in Bulgaria, beat Panathinaikos of Greece 1-0 to stay just one point ahead of the Italians who saw off Anderlecht of Belgium 2-0.

In the Cup-winners' Cup Brugge of Belgium surprisingly beat Atletico Madrid on the away goals rule, Monaco beat Roma and Werder Bremen defeated Turkey's Galatasaray.

Ironically, Monaco have lately been considering whether they would be better off playing in the Italian League rather than the French League. Their home, Monte Carlo, is an independent principality.

In the UEFA Cup, Ajax Amsterdam rounded off a happy evening for Dutch teams by scoring a comfortable 3-0 win over Ghent of Belgium in their first home tie of the season.

Ajax had to play their first three home matches in Dusseldorf, Germany, because of a ban imposed after their fans caused trouble during the competition two years ago.

Mexican striker Hugo Sanchez, who has not played for three weeks in the Spanish League, squeezed Real Madrid into the UEFA Cup semi-finals with a brilliant goal in their 1-0 second leg defeat of Sigma Olomouc of Czechoslovakia.

It was only his second goal of the season. But then, Sanchez has been out of action for the majority of the past year after knee surgery. Portuguese forward Rui Barros headed the winner as Monaco, hoping to become the first French club to win a European club trophy, reached the semi-finals of the Cup-winners' Cup at the expense of 1991 UEFA Cup finalists AS Roma.

CHAMPIONS' CUP

Semi-finals

Group A:
Anderlecht 0 v 0 Panathinaikos
Sampdoria 2 v 0 Red Star Belgrade
Panathinaikos 0 v 0 Sampdoria
Red Star Belgrade 3 v 2 Anderlecht
Panathinaikos 0 v 2 Red Star Belgrade
Anderlecht 3 v 2 Sampdoria.
Red Star Belgrade 1 v 0 Panathinaikos
Sampdoria 2 v 0 Anderlecht.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Red Star	4	3	0	1	6	4	6
Sampdoria	4	2	1	1	6	3	5
Anderlecht	4	1	1	2	5	7	3
Panathinaikos	4	0	2	2	0	3	2

NEXT FIXTURES:

April 1

Panathinaikos v Anderlecht
Red Star Belgrade v Sampdoria

April 15

Anderlecht v Red Star Belgrade
Sampdoria v Panathinaikos

Group B:
Barcelona 3 v 2 Sparta Prague
Kiev Dynamo 1 v 0 Benfica
Benfica 0 v 0 Barcelona
Sparta Prague 2 v 1 Kiev Dynamo
Benfica 1 v 1 Sparta Prague
Kiev Dynamo 0 v 2 Barcelona.
Sparta Prague 1 v 1 Benfica
Barcelona 3 v 0 Kiev Dynamo.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Barcelona	4	3	1	0	8	2	7
Sparta Prague	4	1	2	1	6	6	4
Benfica	4	0	3	1	2	3	3
Kiev Dynamo	4	1	0	3	2	6	1

NEXT FIXTURES

April 1

Benfica v Kiev Dynamo
Sparta Prague v Barcelona

April 15

Kiev Dynamo v Sparta Prague
Barcelona v Benfica

CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Semi-finals

Monaco v Feyenoord
Club Brugge v Werder Bremen
Ties to be played April 1 and April 15

UEFA CUP

Semi-finals

Real Madrid v Torino
Genoa v Ajax
Ties to be played April 1 and April 15

WORLD SOCCER & American Airlines DALLAS CUP® XIII

A WINNING TEAM!

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West Ham United Youth team . . . sponsored by WORLD SOCCER.

THE American Airlines Dallas Cup XIII, the world's most prestigious and challenging youth soccer tournament, kicks off on April 12th in Dallas, Texas, with 172 teams competing for honours in the 13th annual event.

Among the exciting features of this year's tournament are appearances by teams from 25 countries and 20 States, representing a cross section of the world's best youth soccer talent.

"With the World Cup USA just two years away, this is an excellent opportunity to see first class young players from many of the top soccer powers," says American Airlines Dallas Cup XIII Executive Director Bill Stroube.

The highlight of the tournament will be the "Super Division" for leading Under-19 boys' teams.

This year the *WORLD SOCCER* sponsored West Ham United Youth team will be competing against defending 1991Champions Moscow Dynamo and four time Champions Tahuichi from Bolivia, recognised as the world's top ranked youth team.

DALLAS WELCOMES THE WORLD!

Other "Super Division" teams include Club Nacional (Uruguay), Union Sante Fe (Argentina), Umene SC (Kenya), UNAM Pumas (Mexico), NSL Selects (Canada) and Guadalajara FC (Mexico).

Premier teams from the USA will also be competing against these international giants.

For eight days Dallas plays host to an exciting soccer extravaganza that welcomes leading officials from FIFA, the United States Soccer Federation, referees, coaches journalists and, of course, 3,000 players of all ages and over 110,000 spectators and visitors.

Bolivia's top-ranked side Tahuichi.

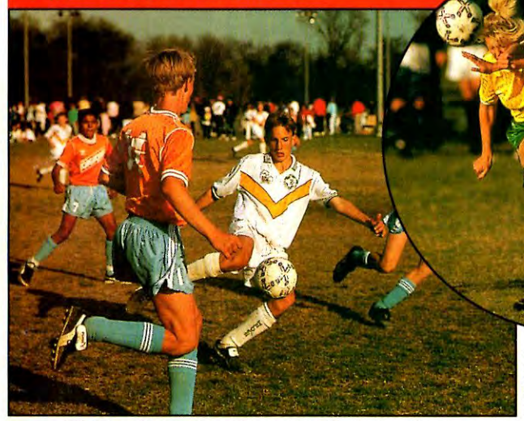
Tahuichi v Guadalajara in last year's Super Division semi.

WORLD SOCCER and SOCCER AMERICA

LAST year Bill Stroube was delighted to announce American Airlines as the principal title sponsor of the Dallas Cup.

Since then American Airlines have developed a very strong association with the game throughout the world. They are now the official airline of the United States Soccer Federation, World Cup 1994, CONCACAF, and the English Football Association.

"Now we welcome two new sponsors with unrivalled reputations throughout the soccer world," says Bill Stroube. "SOCCER AMERICA has been the Bible of US soccer for over 20 years. *WORLD SOCCER* with distribution in 142 countries, is the most respected and certainly most authoritative international soccer magazine in the world."


Michigan Wolves in action against Texas Longhorns.

Above . . . action from last year's girls' U-19 semi-final between Gold D'Feeters and Sting.

England's Knowsley Youth in action against New York's FC Westchester.

TOP FIFA REFEREES TO OFFICIATE IN DALLAS

ONE of the great traditions of the tournament is the participation of FIFA referees from around the world.

"This year we are expecting 26 FIFA referees from18 countries, including five who have taken part in World Cup Finals," says Bill Stroube.

"They are Jose Roberto Ramiz Wright from Brazil, Alan Snoddy (Northern Ireland), Juan Carlos Loustau (Argentina), Vincent Mauro (USA) and Abraham Klein (Israel).

Mr. Wright was the referee who made Paul Gascoigne cry in the 1990 World Cup Finals in Italy (below) when he booked him for a foul during England's incident-packed semi-final against West Germany.

WIN A TRIP TO THE USA TO SUPPORT ENGLAND

PLUS WORLD CUP TICKETS... SIGNED BALL...SHIRT... AMERICAN AIRLINES BAGS... T-SHIRTS...MUGS...AND FOOTBALLS!

All these great prizes to be won in an exciting competition exclusive to *WORLD SOCCER* and our companion magazine Shoot!

Look out for full details in next month's issue of *WORLD SOCCER* and the 11th April issue of Shoot...Britain's top selling soccer weekly.

First Prize will be two American Airlines tickets to the United States to support England on tour next year...tickets for all of England's World Cup qualifying matches at Wembley...football and shirt signed by the England squad...and American Airlines flight bags and souvenirs for runners-up.

Don't miss the chance to enter this great competition bonanza

1994 WORLD CUP QUALIFYING GROUPS

EUROPE

38 entries (39 members, Liechtenstein withdrew)

● *Top two teams in each Group qualify for finals (Germany qualify as holders).*

GROUP 1

Italy, Scotland, Portugal, Switzerland, Malta, Estonia.

16.08.92 Estonia v Switzerland
09.09.92 Switzerland v Scotland
14.10.92 Italy v Switzerland
14.10.92 Scotland v Portugal
25.10.92 Malta v Estonia
18.11.92 Scotland v Italy
18.11.92 Switzerland v Malta
19.12.92 Malta v Italy
24.01.93 Malta v Portugal
17.02.93 Scotland v Malta
24.02.93 Portugal v Italy
24.03.93 Italy v Malta
31.03.93 Switzerland v Portugal
14.04.93 Italy v Estonia
17.04.93 Malta v Switzerland
28.04.93 Portugal v Scotland
01.05.93 Switzerland v Italy
12.05.93 Estonia v Malta
19.05.93 Estonia v Scotland
02.06.93 Scotland v Estonia
19.06.93 Portugal v Malta
05.09.93 Estonia v Portugal
08.09.93 Scotland v Switzerland
22.09.93 Estonia v Italy
13.10.93 Portugal v Switzerland
13.10.93 Italy v Scotland
10.11.93 Portugal v Estonia
17.11.93 Italy v Portugal
17.11.93 Malta v Scotland
17.11.93 Switzerland v Estonia

GROUP 2

England, Holland, Poland, Norway, Turkey, San Marino.

09.09.92 Norway v San Marino
23.09.92 Norway v Holland
23.09.92 Poland v Turkey
07.10.92 San Marino v Norway
14.10.92 England v Norway
14.10.92 Holland v Poland
28.10.92 Turkey v San Marino
18.11.92 England v Turkey
16.12.92 Turkey v Holland
17.02.93 England v San Marino
24.02.93 Holland v Turkey
10.03.93 San Marino v Turkey
24.03.93 Holland v San Marino
31.03.93 Turkey v England
28.04.93 England v Holland
28.04.93 Norway v Turkey
28.04.93 Poland v San Marino
19.05.93 San Marino v Poland
29.05.93 Poland v England
02.06.93 Norway v England
09.06.93 Holland v Norway
08.09.93 England v Poland
22.09.93 Norway v Poland
22.09.93 San Marino v Holland
13.10.93 Holland v England
13.10.93 Poland v Norway
27.10.93 Turkey v Poland
10.11.93 Turkey v Norway
16.11.93 San Marino v England
17.11.93 Poland v Holland

GROUP 3

Spain, Republic of Ireland, Denmark, Northern Ireland, Albania, Lithuania, Latvia.

22.04.92 Spain v Albania
28.04.92 Northern Ireland v Lithuania
26.05.92 Rep. of Ireland v Albania
03.06.92 Albania v Lithuania
12.08.92 Latvia v Lithuania
26.08.92 Latvia v Denmark
09.09.92 Iceland v Latvia
09.09.92 Northern Ireland v Albania
23.09.92 Latvia v Spain
23.09.92 Lithuania v Denmark
14.10.92 Denmark v Rep. of Ireland
14.10.92 Northern Ireland v Spain
28.10.92 Lithuania v Latvia
11.11.92 Albania v Latvia
18.11.92 Northern Ireland v Denmark
18.11.92 Spain v Rep. of Ireland
16.12.92 Spain v Latvia
17.02.93 Albania v Northern Ireland
24.02.93 Spain v Lithuania
31.03.93 Denmark v Spain
31.03.93 Rep. of Ireland v Northern Ireland
14.04.93 Denmark v Latvia
14.04.93 Lithuania v Albania
28.04.93 Rep. of Ireland v Denmark
28.04.93 Spain v Northern Ireland
15.05.93 Latvia v Albania
25.05.93 Lithuania v Northern Ireland
26.05.93 Albania v Rep. of Ireland
02.06.93 Denmark v Albania
02.06.93 Latvia v Northern Ireland
02.06.93 Lithuania v Spain
09.06.93 Latvia v Rep. of Ireland
16.06.93 Lithuania v Rep. of Ireland
25.08.93 Denmark v Lithuania
08.09.93 Albania v Denmark
08.09.93 Rep. of Ireland v Lithuania
08.09.93 Northern Ireland v Latvia
22.09.93 Albania v Spain
13.10.93 Denmark v Northern Ireland
13.10.93 Rep. of Ireland v Spain
17.11.93 Northern Ireland v Rep. of Ireland
17.11.93 Spain v Denmark

GROUP 4

Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Romania, Wales, Cyprus, Faroe Islands.

22.04.92 Belgium v Cyprus
06.05.92 Romania v Faroe Islands
20.05.92 Romania v Wales
03.06.92 Faroe Islands v Belgium
17.06.92 Faroe Islands v Cyprus
02.09.92 Czechoslovakia v Belgium
09.09.92 Wales v Faroe Islands
23.09.92 Czechoslovakia v Faroe Islands
14.10.92 Belgium v Romania
14.10.92 Cyprus v Wales
14.11.92 Romania v Czechoslovakia
18.11.92 Wales v Belgium
29.11.92 Cyprus v Romania
02.01.93 Cyprus v Belgium
24.03.93 Cyprus v Czechoslovakia
31.03.93 Belgium v Wales
14.04.93 Romania v Cyprus
25.04.93 Cyprus v Faroe Islands
28.04.93 Czechoslovakia v Wales
22.05.93 Belgium v Faroe Islands
02.06.93 Czechoslovakia v Romania
06.06.93 Faroe Islands v Wales
16.06.93 Faroe Islands v Czechoslovakia
08.09.93 Wales v Czechoslovakia
08.09.93 Faroe Islands v Romania
13.10.93 Romania v Belgium
13.10.93 Wales v Cyprus
27.10.93 Czechoslovakia v Cyprus
17.11.93 Wales v Romania
17.11.93 Belgium v Czechoslovakia

GROUP 5

CIS, Yugoslavia, Hungary, Greece, Iceland, Luxembourg.

13.05.92 Greece v Iceland
03.06.92 Hungary v Iceland
02.09.92 Iceland v Yugoslavia
09.09.92 Luxembourg v Hungary
23.09.92 Yugoslavia v CIS
07.10.92 Iceland v Greece
14.10.92 CIS v Iceland
14.10.92 Hungary v Yugoslavia
28.10.92 CIS v Luxembourg
11.11.92 Greece v Hungary
15.11.92 Luxembourg v Yugoslavia
17.02.93 Greece v Luxembourg
31.03.93 Hungary v Greece
31.03.93 Yugoslavia v Luxembourg
14.04.93 Luxembourg v CIS
28.04.93 CIS v Hungary
28.04.93 Yugoslavia v Greece
20.05.93 CIS v Greece
20.05.93 Luxembourg v Iceland
02.06.93 Iceland v CIS
16.06.93 Iceland v Hungary
22.08.93 Yugoslavia v Iceland
08.09.93 Hungary v CIS
08.09.93 Iceland v Luxembourg
06.10.93 CIS v Yugoslavia
12.10.93 Luxembourg v Greece
27.10.93 Greece v Yugoslavia
27.10.93 Hungary v Luxembourg
17.11.93 Greece v CIS
17.11.93 Yugoslavia v Hungary

GROUP 6

France, Austria, Sweden, Bulgaria, Finland, Israel.

14.05.92 Finland v Bulgaria
09.09.92 Bulgaria v France
09.09.92 Finland v Sweden
07.10.92 Sweden v Bulgaria
14.10.92 France v Austria
28.10.92 Austria v Israel
11.11.92 Israel v Sweden
14.11.92 France v Finland
02.12.92 Israel v Bulgaria
17.02.93 Israel v France
27.03.93 Austria v France
14.04.93 Austria v Bulgaria
28.04.93 France v Sweden
28.04.93 Bulgaria v Finland
12.05.93 Bulgaria v Israel
13.05.93 Finland v Austria
19.05.93 Sweden v Austria
02.06.93 Sweden v Israel
16.06.93 Finland v Israel
22.08.93 Sweden v France
25.08.93 Austria v Finland
08.09.93 Finland v France
08.09.93 Bulgaria v Sweden
13.10.93 France v Israel
13.10.93 Bulgaria v Austria
13.10.93 Sweden v Finland
27.20.93 Israel v Austria
10.11.93 Austria v Sweden
10.11.93 Israel v Finland
17.11.93 France v Bulgaria

SOUTH AMERICA

9 entries (10 members, Chile suspended)

● *Winners of Group A & winners & runners-up in Group B qualify for finals. Group A runners-up play winners of CONCACAF/ South America play-off for a place in the finals.*

GROUP A

Argentina, Colombia, Paraguay, Peru.

01.08.93 Colombia v Paraguay
01.08.93 Peru v Argentina
08.08.93 Paraguay v Argentina
08.08.93 Peru v Colombia
15.08.93 Colombia v Argentina
15.08.93 Paraguay v Peru
22.08.93 Argentina v Peru
22.08.93 Paraguay v Colombia

29.08.93 Argentina v Paraguay
29.08.93 Colombia v Peru
05.09.93 Argentina v Colombia
05.09.93 Peru v Paraguay

GROUP B

Brazil, Uruguay, Ecuador, Bolivia, Venezuela.

08.07.93 Ecuador v Brazil
08.07.93 Venezuela v Bolivia
25.07.93 Bolivia v Brazil
25.07.93 Venezuela v Uruguay
01.08.93 Uruguay v Ecuador
01.08.93 Venezuela v Brazil
08.08.93 Bolivia v Uruguay
08.08.93 Ecuador v Venezuela
15.08.93 Bolivia v Ecuador
15.08.93 Uruguay v Brazil
22.08.93 Bolivia v Venezuela
22.08.93 Brazil v Ecuador
29.08.93 Brazil v Bolivia
29.08.93 Uruguay v Venezuela
05.09.93 Brazil v Venezuela
05.09.93 Uruguay v Ecuador
12.09.93 Uruguay v Bolivia
12.09.93 Venezuela v Ecuador
19.09.93 Brazil v Uruguay
19.09.93 Ecuador v Bolivia

AFRICA

37 entries (48 members, Sierra Leone withdrew)

● *Group winners qualify for Second Round of 3 mini leagues of 3 teams each. Winners qualify for finals.*

First Round

GROUP A

Algeria, Ghana, Uganda, Burundi.

09.10.92 Algeria v Burundi
09.10.92 Ghana v Uganda
23.10.92 Burundi v Ghana
23.10.92 Uganda v Algeria
18.12.92 Burundi v Uganda
18.12.92 Ghana v Algeria

GROUP B

Cameroon, Zaire, Liberia, Swaziland.

09.10.92 Cameroon v Swaziland
09.10.92 Zaire v Liberia
23.10.92 Liberia v Cameroon
23.10.92 Swaziland v Zaire
18.12.92 Swaziland v Liberia
18.12.92 Zaire v Cameroon

GROUP C

Egypt, Angola, Zambabwe, Togo.

09.10.92 Egypt v Angola
09.10.92 Zimbabwe v Togo
23.10.92 Angola v Zimbabwe
23.10.92 Togo v Egypt
18.12.92 Angola v Togo
18.12.92 Zimbabwe v Egypt

GROUP D

Nigeria, Congo, Libya, Sao Tome & Principe.

09.10.92 Congo v Libya
09.10.92 Nigeria v Sao Tome & Principe
23.10.92 Libya v Nigeria
23.10.92 Sao Tome & Principe v Congo
18.12.92 Congo v Nigeria
18.12.92 Sao Tome & Principe v Libya

GROUP E

Ivory Coast, Sudan, Niger, Botswana.

09.10.92 Ivory Coast v Botswana
09.10.92 Sudan v Niger
23.10.92 Botswana v Sudan
23.10.92 Niger v Ivory Coast
18.12.92 Botswana v Niger
18.12.92 Sudan v Ivory Coast

GROUP F

Morocco, Tunisia, Malawi, Ethiopia.

09.10.92 Morocco v Ethiopia
09.10.92 Tunisia v Malawi
23.10.92 Ethiopia v Tunisia
23.10.92 Malawi v Morocco
18.12.92 Ethiopia v Malawi
18.12.92 Tunisia v Morocco

GROUP G

Senegal, Gabon, Mozambique, Mauritania.

09.10.92 Gabon v Mozambique
09.10.92 Senegal v Mauritania
23.10.92 Mauritania v Gabon
23.10.92 Mozambique v Senegal
18.12.92 Gabon v Senegal
18.12.92 Mauritania v Mozambique

GROUP H

Zambia, Madagascar, Burkina Faso, Tanzania.

09.10.92 Madagascar v Burkina Faso
09.10.92 Zambia v Tanzania
23.10.92 Burkina Faso v Zambia
23.10.92 Tanzania v Madagascar
18.12.92 Madagascar v Zambia
18.12.92 Tanzania v Burkina Faso

GROUP I

Kenya, Guinea, Mali, Gambia.

09.10.92 Guinea v Mali
09.10.92 Kenya v Gambia
23.10.92 Gambia v Guinea
23.10.92 Mali v Kenya
18.12.92 Gambia v Mali
18.12.92 Guinea v Kenya

ASIA

29 entries (36 members)

● *The six Group winners qualify for Second Round, to be played as (home & away) one mini-league. Winners & runners-up qualify for finals.*

First Round

GROUP A

China, Iraq, Jordan, Yemen, Pakistan,

GROUP B

Iran, Syria, Oman, Taiwan, Myanmar (formerly Burma).

GROUP C

North Korea, Qatar, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia.

GROUP D

South Korea, Bahrain, Hong Kong, Lebanon, India.

GROUP E

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Malaysia, Macao.

GROUP F

United Arab Emirates, Japan, Thailand, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh.

OCEANIA

7 entries (8 members, Western Samoa withdrew)

● *The two Group winners play (home & away) with the winners qualifying to meet the CONCACAF runners-up. The winners of that match will meet the South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals.*

GROUP 1

Australia, Tahiti, Solomon Islands.

GROUP 2

New Zealand, Fiji, Vanuatu.

06.06.92 New Zealand v Fiji
12.09.92 Fiji v Vanuatu
19.09.92 Fiji v New Zealand
26.09.92 Vanuatu v Fiji

CONCACAF

23 entries (27 members, Cuba withdrew)

● *Winners of Group A play (home & away) against winners of Group B. Winning nation qualifies for finals. Runners-up play Oceania winners for right to play South America Group A runners-up for a place in the finals (United States qualify as hosts).*

Pre-preliminary Round

CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

21.03.92 Dominican Rep. v Puerto Rico
22.03.92 St Lucia v St Vincent
29.03.92 Puerto Rico v Dominican Rep.
29.03.92 St Vincent v St Lucia

Preliminary Round

CARIBBEAN REGION — NORTH

Bermuda v Haiti, Dominican Rep. or Puerto Rico v Jamaica, St Lucia or St Vincent v Grenadines.

CARIBBEAN REGION — SOUTH

Dutch Antilles v Antigua, Guyana v Surinam, Barbados v Trinidad & Tobago.

First Round

CENTRAL REGION:

Guatemala v Honduras, Panama v Costa Rica, Nicaragua v El Salvador

CARIBBEAN REGION:

Guyana or Surinam v St Lucia/St Vincent or Grenadines, Bermuda or Haiti v Dutch Antilles or Antigua, Barbados or Trinidad & Tobago v Dominican Rep./Rueto Rico or Jamaica.

Second Round

GROUP A:

Mexico and 3 First Round qualifiers.

GROUP B:

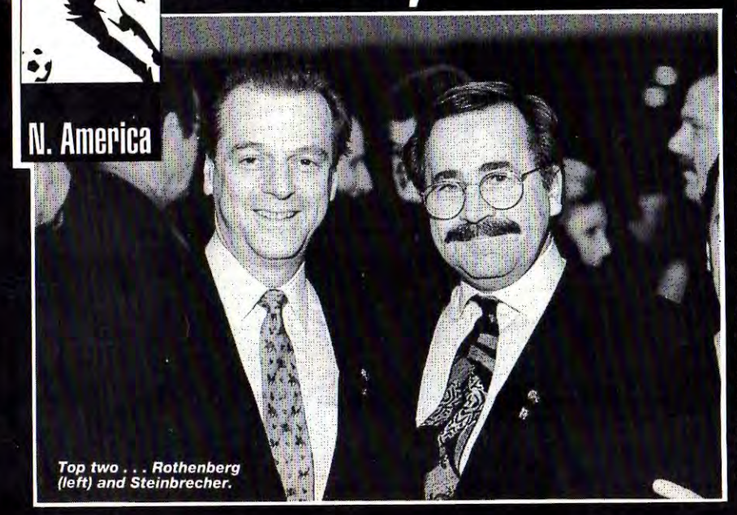
Canada and 3 first Round qualifiers.

WORLD CUP TOP 20 — COMPLETE RECORD OF THE FINAL STAGES

No		P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS	30	34	38	50	54	58	62	66	70	74	78	82	86	90
1	Brazil	66	44	11	11	148	65	99	6	14	3	2	5	1	1	11	1	4	3	5	5	9
2	West Germany	68	39	15	14	145	90	93	—	3	10	—	1	4	7	2	3	1	6	2	2	1
3	Italy	54	31	12	11	89	54	74	—	1	1	7	10	—	9	9	2	10	4	1	12	3
4	Argentina	48	24	9	15	82	59	57	2	9	—	—	—	13	10	5	—	8	1	11	1	2
5	England	41	18	12	11	55	38	48	—	—	—	8	6	11	8	1	8	—	—	6	8	4
6	Uruguay	37	15	8	14	61	52	38	1	—	—	1	4	—	12	7	4	13	—	—	16	16
7	Soviet Union	31	15	6	10	53	34	36	—	—	—	—	—	7	6	4	5	—	—	7	10	17
8	France	34	15	5	14	71	56	35	7	9	6	—	11	3	—	13	—	—	12	4	3	—
9	Yugoslavia	33	14	7	12	55	42	35	4	—	—	5	7	5	4	—	—	7	16	—	5	—
10	Hungary	32	15	3	14	87	57	33	—	6	2	—	2	10	5	6	—	—	15	14	18	—
11	Spain	32	13	7	12	43	38	33	—	5	—	4	—	—	13	10	—	—	10	12	7	10
12	Poland	25	13	5	7	39	29	31	—	—	11	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	5	3	14	—
13	Sweden	31	11	6	14	51	52	28	—	8	4	3	—	2	—	—	9	5	13	—	—	21
14	Czechoslovakia	30	11	5	14	44	45	27	—	2	5	—	14	9	2	—	15	—	—	19	—	6
15	Austria	26	12	2	12	40	43	26	—	4	—	—	3	15	—	—	—	—	7	8	—	18
16	Holland	20	8	6	6	35	23	22	—	9	14	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	15
17	Belgium	25	7	4	14	33	49	18	11	15	13	—	12	—	—	—	10	—	—	10	4	11
18	Mexico	29	6	6	17	27	64	18	13	—	—	12	13	16	11	12	6	—	16	—	6	—
19	Chile	21	7	3	11	26	32	17	5	—	—	9	—	—	3	13	—	11	—	22	—	—
20	Scotland	20	4	6	10	23	35	14	—	—	—	—	15	14	—	—	—	9	11	15	19	18

At last, a sort of reality

N. America



Top two . . . Rothenberg (left) and Steinbrecher.

WITH the naming of the cities where games will be played, World Cup '94 at last emerges from the mists of plans, projects and PR and takes on reality.

But don't imagine that this will be a monolithic reality, with the World Cup looking and feeling the same in California as it does in Florida or New York.

Regional differences are substantial in the United States, and are fiercely guarded. Expect them to be trumpeted loudly during the tournament. There will be a great deal of local variation in the way that games are presented.

Making sure that this display of independence doesn't get out of hand, and that the venues work together to produce a homogeneous event, is the task of the USSF president Alan Rothenberg, who has emerged very clearly as the World Cup '94 supremo.

Mostly that is good news, for Rothenberg is a man of action, a quick learner and decision maker. He is an outgoing personality, at ease in public and when dealing with the Press. An important point, that, for American soccer has suffered greatly in the past for want of a convincing spokesman.

If there is a criticism to be made of Rothenberg, it is the one that has hovered over World Cup '94 right from the start: that the organisation is top-heavy with administrators and lawyers (Rothenberg included), and distressingly short on soccer brains.

Indeed, there is only one such person at decision-making level — USSF secretary Hank Steinbrecher — and his soccer experience is mostly limited to the States. Rothenberg will shape the World Cup, and he and Steinbrecher will try to shape the future of the sport here in the post-World Cup period.

The key to that future, it is generally agreed, is the formation of a nationwide professional League. Rothenberg, after a brief initial period of mindless optimism, has quickly seen that this will not be easy.

He has developed a plan to link the World Cup directly to the future pro League, the idea being to take advantage of the heightened soccer interest in the 1994 venue cities, and encourage those cities to form teams to provide the nucleus for the new League.

The American way of forming a pro League is to grant a franchise to a local businessman (or a group of them). They agree to form a team and to run it according to League regulations.

In return they get the exclusive rights to field the team within a specified geographical area. Competing teams will not be allowed to operate in that area.

"Granting" a franchise is a matter of money. The businessman pays for it. If the League is a highly-successful money-maker — such as the National (Gridiron) Football League — he will have to fork out millions of dollars. But when it's soccer — which has never really succeeded at pro level, and where club owners invariably lose money — the matter of a franchise fee is probably academic.

No doubt the franchises in any new league would go for some paltry sum if they were not actually given away.

The problems are far from academic, and they are all rather embarrassingly on show in the American Professional Soccer League.

This was formed in 1990 by the amalgamation of the Western Soccer League and the (Eastern) American Soccer League, and was held to be the way of the future: a demonstration of how small regional Leagues, working cautiously on modest budgets, could grow into larger Leagues, and ultimately — such was the theory — into a full-blown national professional League.

In 1990 the APSL had 22 teams. In 1991, it had shrunk to nine teams, one of which — Salt Lake Sting — went bankrupt in mid-season.

This season, there are five teams: San Francisco Bay Blackhawks, Miami Freedom, Colorado Foxes, Tampa Bay Rowdies, and Fort Lauderdale Strikers.

The regular season runs from May 2 until August 30, with the teams playing each other four times. Play-offs begin in September, with only the fifth-placed team having been eliminated.

A five-team League — three of them close neighbours in Miami, the other two thousands of miles away in San Francisco and Colorado — does not sound like a wildly successful operation.

Crowds average below 2,000 per game, and the standard of play can charitably be called modest.

That the APSL is still in business at all is a tremendous tribute to the tenacity and faith of the organisers. Unrealistic they may be, but one has to admire their attitude.

Commissioner Bill Sage of APSL says: "This season promises to be our most competitive yet. The APSL's natural rivalries will flourish under this format."

And Fort Lauderdale president Noel Lemon, after watching the US play the CIS in the palatial Joe Robbie Stadium, said: "It won't be too long before we (ie the Strikers) are playing in Joe Robbie Stadium to similar crowds."

That may be the most wishful of wishful thinking, but it pinpoints one of the major problems for any pro League: the nationwide lack of suitable stadiums. The grounds to be used for World Cup '94 will be gridiron or baseball stadiums converted, temporarily, into first-class soccer facilities. If Rothenberg's plan works, those grounds would become part-time soccer stadiums in the new League.

But it is not just a lack of stadiums, or its own poor image, that the Amazing Shrinking APSL has to struggle against. Rothenberg believes that any pro League will have to start, fully-fledged and fully-financed, from the top — what he calls the "the big-bang" theory.

He is not a believer in the APSL's "start small, grow slowly" approach.

PAUL **GARDNER**

gloomy times

CLUB FOCUS

BENFICA

By KEIR **RADNEDGE**

Symbol of superiority . . . the giant eagle in the trophy room at Benfica's Stadium of Light, the ground with the largest capacity of any in Europe.

IT'S looking a gloomy old year for Benfica. Seems the semi-final round of the Champions' Cup will be as far as they go. Looks as if runners-up behind Porto in the league is the best they

For 99 per cent of clubs such high-flying remains a dream. For Portugal's greatest club that's abject failure. Coaching and playing staff must pay the ultimate penalty: a drastic clear-out.

Not that the spring-cleaning can yet begin. Almost everything depends on presidential elections due to be held on April 29.

That is one factor which does not concern Swedish coach Sven-Goran Eriksson, who is expected to leave at the season's end, probably to return to Italy with Sampdoria. Speculation on a successor has revolved around CIS manager Anatoli Bishovets — Benfica have three CIS players in Sergei Yuran, Vasili Kulkov and Alexander Mostovoi — Portugal coach Carlos Queiros and Paris Saint-Germain's Artur Jorge (formerly with Porto).

Favourite to win the election is Jorge De Brito, a wealthy banker who has been the power behind the throne of retiring president Joao Santos. "Opposition" candidate is Alexandre Alves, millionaire owner of Portugal's largest air conditioning corporation. All Benfica's 50,000 socios (members) are eligible to vote in the election, Portuguese football having successfully resisted political pressure to transform from sports clubs to limited companies.

But the end of April/start of May is awfully late in the day, in terms of transfers. Long before then most of the rich clubs of western Europe have lined up their new coaches and players, even though signatures on formal contracts may yet be lacking.

All of which places a question mark against De Brito's election manifesto, which promises heavy expenditure to "make Benfica great again" and to turn around a history which includes a record five defeats in the Champions' Cup Final.

Living up to the standards of history is what Benfica's directorial, coaching and playing staff believe they owe Cosme Damiao who, on February 28, 1904, organised the first recorded game of "futebol" in Portugal on a patch of Lisbon wasteland. The following day he organised his "team" into a club named Sport Lisboa (Lisbon). Damiao was elected president and, two years later, he was instrumental in arranging a merger with neighbours Sport Clube de Benfica.

On that historic September 13, 1908, Sport Lisboa e Benfica was launched.

Football was not the only concern. In the early years it was cycling which brought the club's first prizes — hardly surprising, since it was not until the end of the 1920s that a unified Portuguese championship was launched.

Vitor silva was a famous Benfica forward in the early

Second-best not good enough

Supporters of the stars . . . Benfica fans show their colours.

Midfield master . . . Pacheco replaced Carlos Manuel and became a revelation.

Highbury hiding . . . Yuran beats Arsenal's Dixon during Benfica's 3-1 Champions' Cup victory last November.

Wembley woe . . . Altafini (all white) scores Milan's first goal in their 2-1 Champions' Cup Final victory over Benfica in 1963.

1930s, followed by Guilhermo Espirito Santo, Luis Xavier, Francisco Albino, Alfredo Valadas, Julinho, Arsenio and Francisco Ferreira.

Few of these names mean anything outside Lisbon now. All except Francisco Ferreira. He was for years the club captain and a national team stalwart.

In 1949, for a testimonial match, he flew in the champions of Italy, Torino. Ferreira's Benfica won 4-3. But that was overshadowed by tragedy the next day when Torino's plane crashed, killing everyone on board, including 18 players.

Benfica continued to expand in football, cycling and athletics. The demands for space and facilities led to four changes of "home" in 15 years. But that did not interrupt the flow of success. In 1950, for example, Benfica won not only the championship but the Latin Cup, one of the forerunners for the Champions' Cup, as well.

Their manager was an Englishman named Ted Smith and he laid the foundations of a team who would dominate not only Portugal but Europe.

In 1954 Benfica followed the examples being set in Spain by Real Madrid and Barcelona and decided to build a vast new stadium, incorporating the sort of "sports city" necessary for all the other disciplines.

President Joaquim Ferreira Bogalho set work under way at the Estadio da Luz — now extended to a 130,000 capacity (the largest football stadium in Europe).

An exiled Hungarian named Bela Guttman became coach and his team filled the new stadium as Benfica swept to success twice in the Champions' Cup, in 1961 and 1962. First they beat Barcelona, amid intense drama, by 3-2 in Bern; then they beat Real Madrid 5-3 in Amsterdam — after recovering from 2-0 down.

On both occasions Benfica were captained by their veteran centre-forward, Jose Aguas (father of present star, Rui Aguas). They also developed one of the most famous Portuguese footballers of all time: Eusebio da Silva Ferreira, who now has a statue in his honour in the Benfica stadium entrance.

Yet Eusebio was not, strictly, Portuguese. Like many of Benfica's key players, Eusebio had been discovered in Portugal's African colonies. In his case, Mozambique. Benfica boasted then that no foreigner had ever played for the club. The tradition was scrapped only in the mid-1970s when the African colonies were cast adrift. Now Benfica hunt Brazilians, Slavs and Danes along with the rest.

There are three big clubs in Portugal: Benfica, FC Porto and Sporting Lisbon. And Benfica, whatever the impression created by Porto in the last few years, remain the biggest of the three. It's a reputation which owes not a little to British influence over the years. When Benfica shocked European football by winning the Champions' Cup in 1961 and 1962 it was partly thanks to the way in which Guttman had scrapped Benfica's "modern" 4-2-4 style and reverted to Herbert Chapman's good old "WM."

Mozambique magic . . . the great Eusebio.

More recently Jimmy Hagan won the championship hat-trick between 1971 and 1973. Then came John Mortimore. He guided Benfica to the league title in 1977, left for a spell, then returned to take the club to the league and cup double. Later came Toni, a one-time international midfielder, Danish coach Ebbe Skovdahl and now Eriksson.

Nobody yet knows who comes next. What is certain is that the pressure on him will be crushing.

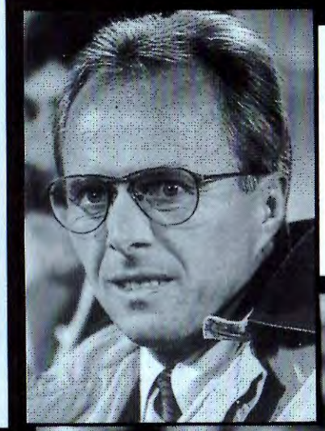
CONTINUED OVER

Benfica

FACT BOX

Club: Sport Lisboa e Benfica.
Founded: 1904 as Sport Benfica; current title assumed after merger in 1908.
Stadium: Estadio da Luz/do Benfica (130,000 capacity).

Coach: Sven-Goran Eriksson.
President: Joao Santos.
Colours: Red and white.
Honours: two Champions' Cups; 29 championships (record); 21 domestic cups (record).



COACH

Sven-Goran ERIKSSON.
Aged 44 (born February 5, 1948).
Top Swedish coach, who returned in 1989 to Benfica after spells in Italy with Roma and Fiorentina. Eriksson (left) made his name in taking IFK Gothenburg to victory in the UEFA Cup in 1982 — the first Swedish club to win a European trophy. He was then snapped up by Benfica. In 1983 they won the league-and-cup double and finished runners-up to Anderlecht in the UEFA Cup. Eriksson was lured to Italy a year later. He spent five years there before returning to Lisbon when Fiorentina became embroiled in a boardroom power battle. Leaves Benfica again at the end of the season, with Italy's Sampdoria his likely destination.

THE PLAYERS

SILVINO De Almeida Louro.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 33 (born March 5, 1959) with 19 caps.
Signed in 1984 from Vitoria Guimaraes as prospective replacement for long-serving Manuel Bento — a status he achieved only after Bento broke a leg in training at the 1986 World Cup finals. Silvino, who began with Vitoria Setubal, made his international debut in a goalless draw against Hungary in April, 1983. Peculiarly all his first international games, for youth team, under-21 and full national team, ended in draws.

NENO — Adelino Augusto Barros.
Goalkeeper.
Aged 32 (born May 3, 1959) with two caps.
Also a former youth international. Joined Benfica in the summer of last year from Vitoria Guimaraes. Forced his way into the first team ahead of Silvino in the latter half of last season. Made his Portugal debut in a 4-0 defeat by Brazil in June, 1989.

Vasili KULKOV.
Sweeper/Midfield.
Aged 25 (born June 11, 1966) with 20 caps for the CIS/Soviet Union.
Summer signing from Moscow Spartak. The Soviets' discovery of 1989 when Spartak landed the league championship. He was quickly promoted to the national team squad and made his debut as a substitute against Turkey in May, 1989. Kulkov just failed to make the World Cup 22 in Italy in 1990 but has earned the nickname of the "Soviet Baresi" and was a key figure in Spartak's progress, last year, to the Champions' Cup semi-finals.

Antonio Augusto Da Silva VELOSO.
Left-back/Midfield/sweeper.
Aged 35 (born January 31, 1957) with 34 caps.
Joined Benfica in 1980 from Beira-Mar. A knee injury in the middle of season 1983-84 upset his chances of appearing (apart from one game as a substitute) in the 1984 European finals. Until that injury he had been unanimously regarded as the top player in the Portuguese League that season. Made his international debut as a left-back in a 2-1 win over Scotland in Lisbon, in November 1981. Extended career by moving to sweeper three years ago.

FERNANDO Manual Antonio MENDES.
Defender.
Aged 25 (born November 5, 1966) with five caps.
Former youth international. Good in the air, quick on the ground. Signed from furious local rivals Sporting three years ago.

Swedish stylist . . . Jonas Thern was signed by Benfica from Malmo three years ago.

JOSE CARLOS Martins Ferreira.
Right-back.
Aged 25 (born August 2, 1966) with one cap for Portugal.
Lisbon-born. Signed from Portimonense three years ago.

Pedro Manuel VALIDO Franco.
Defender.
Aged 22 (born March 13, 1970).
Former under-21 and youth international. Signed last summer from the Braga club, Gil Vicente. Born in Lisbon but was overlooked by all the local top clubs and began his career instead with Feirense.

Stefan SCHWARZ.
Left-back/Midfield.
Aged 22 (born April 18, 1969) with 12 caps for Sweden.
Bayern Munich were the first foreign club who tried to prise Schwarz away from Malmo. But they wanted Schwarz to take up the German citizenship available to him because his father was born in Germany (thus allowing Bayern to sign an "extra" foreigner). Schwarz refused to comply, fearing that this would cost him his World Cup chance, and joined Benfica instead. Now fully fit after missing much of last year through injury.

Rui COSTA.
Full-back.
Aged 19 (born March 29, 1972).
A member of the Portugal team who won the World Youth Cup last year, beating Brazil in a penalty shoot-out after a goalless draw in the Final in Benfica's own stadium. Costa himself shot the decisive penalty. Played then on loan with Fafe and returned during the summer to Benfica.

WILLIAM de Andrade.
Central Defender.
Aged 24 (born December 21, 1967) with one cap.
Brazilian-born defender whom Benfica signed in 1990 from Vitoria Guimaraes in the face of stiff competition from Porto and Sporting. He was considered the successor to Aldair, the Brazilian World Cup defender who had left for Roma.

RUI Fernando Silva Calapez BENTO.
Centre-back.
Aged 19 (born October 14, 1972) with one cap.
Former youth international who played 35 times for Portugal at an assortment of junior levels. Signed from his home-town club, Silves, five years ago.

Another member of the Portugal team who won the World Youth Cup against Brazil in Benfica's own stadium last year.

PAULO Sergio Braga MADEIRA.
Centre-back.
Aged 21 (born September 6, 1970) with one cap.
Former under-21 and youth international. Made his senior Portugal debut in a 5-0 win over Malta in the European qualifiers in February last year. Yet Paulo Madeira was born in Luanda, Angola, one of Portugal's former African colonies, and joined Benfica as a 16-year-old from Angolan club Sant'Antonio.

Antonio Manuel PACHECO Domingos.
Midfield.
Aged 25 (born December 1, 1966) with five caps.
Also an under-21 international. Pacheco was the domestic revelation of the 1987-88 season — just in time too, because Benfica had then just sold their best midfielder, veteran Carlos Manuel, to Sion of Switzerland. He appeared as substitute to score Benfica's goal from a penalty in the first match against Sparta.

HERNANI Madruga Neves.
Midfield.
Aged 28 (born November 2, 1963) with two caps.
Joined Benfica three years ago from Vitoria Setubal.

Jonas THERN.
Midfield.
Aged 24 (born March 20, 1967) with 22 caps for Sweden.
Joined Benfica three years ago from Malmo for £800,000 and is considered Sweden's No 1 player by their European championship manager Tommy Svensson. Thern had a controversial impact on the 1988 Olympic Games finals in Seoul when he scored a fine goal in Sweden's opening 2-2 draw against Tunisia and was then sent off. Made his senior Sweden debut in a 1-1 draw with West Germany in Gelsenkirchen in October, 1987. Thern has been spied out by a number of English clubs.

VITOR PANEIRA.
Full name: Vitor Manuel da Costa Araujo.
Midfield.
Aged 26 (born February 16, 1966) with 23 caps (three goals).
Also an under-21 international. Made his senior national team debut as a substitute for Porto's Jaime Magalhaes in a 0-0 draw against Sweden in Gothenburg in October, 1988. Likes playing wide on the right and is renowned for popping up with vital goals.

Paulo Carvalho SOUSA.
Midfield.
Aged 21 (born August 30, 1970).
Yet another former under-21 and youth international. Joined Benfica as a 15-year-old from Viseu.

Alexander MOSTOVOI.
Midfield.
Aged 23 (born August 22, 1968) with 14 caps for the CIS/Soviet Union.
Experienced former Olympic international. Unlucky to miss out on a World Cup spot last summer because of the recurring injury problems which had upset his 1989 season. Mostovoi made his Soviet national team debut in the World Cup warm-up against the Irish Republic in Dublin. Mostovoi was one of the stars of the Spartak side which reached the Champions' Cup semi-finals though recurring bouts of lumbago hampered his preparation against Marseille. He signed for Benfica earlier this spring and circumvented Portugal's import rules by immediately marrying a Portuguese wife.

Following father . . . Rui Aguas.

Mats MAGNUSSON.
Centre-forward.
Aged 28 (born July 10, 1963) with 23 caps for Sweden.
Good in the air but cumbersome on the ground. Began his career with Malmo and made his international debut in a 1-1 draw with Mexico in Malmo in August 1984. Was then sold to Swiss club Servette but returned to Malmo in 1986 for £200,000 — then a record pay-out by a Swedish club. In September 1985 Magnusson kept alive (albeit briefly) Sweden's World Cup qualifying hopes: he went on as 88th-minute substitute for Andreas Ravelli when Sweden were losing 2-1 at home to West Germany . . . and equalised with what proved his only touch of the ball. Benfica signed him on Danish coach Ebbe Skovdahl's recommendation in 1987. Magnusson was the Portuguese League's top scorer in 1988-89 with 33 goals.

ISAIAS Marques Soares.
Forward.
Aged 28 (born November 17, 1963).
Brazilian — but counts as Portuguese because of his wife's nationality. Joined Benfica in 1990 from the Oporto club Boavista. Isaias has scored four goals for Benfica in Europe this term, three of them against Arsenal — one in Lisbon then two more at Highbury.

CESAR Goncalves de BRITO Diarte.
Forward.
Aged 27 (born October 21, 1964) with 10 caps.
Made his debut for Portugal in a 1-1 draw against Belgium in the last World Cup qualifiers; appeared as a substitute for club-mate Vitor Paneira. Also an under-21 and Olympic international. Was omitted from the national team for two years before making a goal-scoring return this past August in a 1-0 win over Finland.

Jose RUI Lopes AGUAS.
Forward.
Aged 31 (born April 28, 1960) with 22 caps (seven goals).
Son of the Angolan-born Jose Aguas, who was captain and centre-forward of Benfica's Champions' Cup-winning teams of 1961 and 1962. Rui Aguas was born in Lisbon, began (naturally) with Benfica but was allowed to leave after finding his father's reputation more of a hindrance than a help. His form with Portimonense on the Algarve earned him a Portugal debut and Benfica bought him back in 1985. His goals took Benfica to the Champions' Cup Final in 1988. Then, in a major transfer scandal, he was lured away to deadly rivals Porto. Rui Aguas returned — again — to Benfica in 1989 and was the League's 25-goal top scorer last season. Suffered a serious ankle injury away to Kiev.

Sergei YURAN.
Attack.
Aged 22 (born June 11, 1969) with 11 caps (three goals) for the CIS/Soviet Union.
Summer signing from Kiev Dynamo — with which Benfica outwitted all Europe's top clubs. Yuran is rated one of the finest young prospects in the world, despite having made his Kiev debut only three years ago. He was the subject of a transfer tug o' war in the Soviet Union in the winter of 1990-91 between Kiev and Moscow Spartak before Benfica clinched the deal. Yuran made a slow start in the League but exploded into four-goal action against Hamrun Spartans of Malta in Benfica's first round first leg Champions' Cup tie.

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DOLL IS NO PUPPET

The marionette from the east becomes an Italian favourite

BY ARTHUR **ROTMIL**

FROM a police club in the repressed and the economically down-trodden former East Germany to an aristocratic outfit and a luxury life style in Italy . . . that is the astonishing transformation Thomas Doll is now enjoying.

Doll, the 25-year-old attacking midfielder, is the first East German to play in Italy so far. He has improved his skill so much that he is the only man from the East to have become first choice in the all-German national team.

And he has been rated by experts as one of only three Germans worth of the accolade "world class."

The others, according to the leading sports paper, *Kicker*, are his Lazio clubmate Karl-Heinz Riedle and stopper Jurgen Kohler of Juventus.

Unfortunately the recent allegations that he was a police informer during his time at Dynamo Berlin have deeply upset Doll.

He denies any involvement with the Stasi (state security service), and he was visibly touched when the Lazio fans, reacting to the accusations, greeted their new idol with the chant: "Doll, we love you," and unfurled a giant banner saying "Neither spies nor liars can destroy our Doll".

It was a remarkable and truly emotional demonstration of support for the footballer, who was virtually unknown outside Germany 18 months ago.

Transferred

When the Berlin wall crumbled in 1989 and the footballers began streaming across the old border to join the affluent western clubs, Doll, who was transferred to Hamburg SV for £500,000, was not regarded as front runner for a place in the all-German national team.

Matthias Sammer, Andreas Thom, Ulf Kirsten and Rico Steinmann were suggested as prime candidates for the unified side. But Doll upstaged them all.

He was born in Malchin/Mecklenburg on June 9, 1966, began his footballing career with local club Lokomotive, and joined Hansa Rostock when only 19.

His Oberliga debut was in 1983-84, but when Hertha were relegated he was transferred to BFC Dynamo Berlin. He won two League championships and two Cups, and in 146 First Division games he scored 43 goals.

Dynamo Berlin, like all other Dynamo clubs, were controlled by the Ministry of the Interior and ran by the police, who recruited numerous footballers to spy for them. Doll emphatically rejects accusations that he too was spying.

"This is a sick joke," he says. "I never had any contact with the secret police. These allegations are shameful. My father was fired as a director of a furniture factory because he received gift parcels from West Germany. While I was with Rostock, I was suspended for six months on a trumped-up charge."

Germany's national team manager, Berti Vogts, anxious to avoid a backlash from the fans or friction among his players, stresses: "Doll has always claimed that his greatest virtue is honesty.

"He and Andreas Thom (who was also accused), have both assured me that they did not work for the Stasi, and I have not the slightest reason to doubt them. They remain members of my squad."

Doll played for the GDR national team 29 times, scoring seven goals and 15 times for the Olympic team. He also played in ten Under-21 games and six youth internationals.

"I would never have defected from East Germany, because my family means everything to me," he says.

"Apart from sport, they are my hobby and they would have suffered if I had gone over the wall.

"I thought I would play another year for Dynamo Berlin and then return to Rostock to end my career, but political events changed my plans."

In 1990 Doll moved to Hamburg and crowned his first season there when the 18 captains of the Bundesliga teams and the national side's boss voted him their Player of the Season. This coincided with Lazio's offer, one that he and Hamburg could not refuse.

The clubs agreed a fee of £5 million, and Doll collected a handsome signing-on bonus, a three-year contract worth £1.3m net, and an option for a further three years.

Doll's former club, now called FC Berlin, received ten per cent of the transfer fee.

Signed

"We are delighted to welcome Doll," said Lazio's then president, Gianmarco Calleri, after the documents were signed. And Doll became the object of that well-worn cliche, "a millionaire overnight" — which is patent nonsense. No footballer ever has been handed a million pounds for his signature on the day he joined a club.

Hamburg did not make as much as they were hoping. The percentage paid to Berlin, Doll's cut, commission to the intermediaries and other expenses took a sizeable proportion of the fee. Yet the club, who were in dire financial trouble, had no option but to sell.

On arriving at Lazio, Doll almost immediately struck up a marvellous understanding with his German team-mate Riedle.

Doll, the creator, supplies accurate crosses for Riedle, the heading specialist, to convert.

As in the friendly at Wembley last September, when Doll turned Crystal Palace's John Salako inside out and centred for Riedle's winning goal against England.

Riedle, a classy counter attacker — incidentally a qualified butcher — played for four clubs before joining Werder Bremen.

Immediately after the World Cup, Lazio paid £5.5m for him — a German record. In Italia '90 Riedle played one full game, plus three as substitute. His penalty in the decisive shoot-out helped to eliminate England and propel the Germans into the final.

Relegated

Lazio fans now call Doll and Riedle "Romulus and Remus" after the twin founders of Rome.

They are rated the best striking duo in the Italian First Division, and of course they remain in the German national team, though when Rudi Voller is fit Doll attacks from midfield.

They have relegated the redoubtable Jurgen Klinsmann and schemer Thomas Hassler to the bench.

Riedle claims that he recommended Doll to Lazio, saying: "Since he joined us he is playing better than ever and naturally I benefit from his contribution."

Doll returns the compliment: "Karl-Heinz is in the best form of his life. For me he is the best header of the ball in the world."

Riedle says: "I was never specifically taught the art. Of course, jumping is my strong point. When I was 15 I could clear 5ft 9in in the high jump.

"But the many hours I spent as a youngster, heading the ball against the wall of a dairy farm, are now paying off."

The two stars have become very close, and so have their wives. Doll has a two-year-old daughter Denise, Riedle has a baby boy, seven-month Alessandro.

Despite the adulation and riches Doll has remained modest in his demands on life. When asked what happiness means to him, he replies: "Good health for my family."

Doll says: "Through the fall of the regime in the East and the unification, my life has taken a totally different direction.

"As a footballer I have changed 100 per cent. While in the GDR, I felt like a manipulated marionette. Now I see myself as a respected personalty," he claims.

Clearly the devotion of the Italian tifosi has contributed immensely to his integration. Doll feels at home in beautiful surroundings, and loves the way of life.

Not surprising, really.

STASI: WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

OPINIONS are divided as to what action, if any, should be taken over the self-confessed German informers, or those merely accused of having been police spies.

A number of the players named have had their character blackened and certain former internationals are under enormous pressure. Some of the "suspects" have engaged lawyers to clear their names.

Police files have been destroyed or hidden, and it is now difficult to prove any case. Jorg Kretzschmar, the former Dynamo Dresden player and principal accuser stands by his statement, though Doll has threatened to sue for defammation.

Accuser . . . Zretzschmar.

On the other hand, three Hansa Rostock players — Florian Weichert, Stefan Persigehl and Gernot Alms — admitted they were police informers.

Weichert explains: "I was told to watch Axel Kruse who later defected to the West and joined Eintracht Frankfurt. I refused at first but was put under pressure and so was my family."

The Stasi were particularly interested in citizens who had contacts in the west and those who travelled abroad. Among the West German fans, many are demanding a reprieve for all from the charges, while some people remind the public that police spies were at work in the west, too.

Others complain that too much publicity is given to the small fry and not enough to those at the top who pulled the strings and perpetrated crimes against humanity.

Many people who live in the West have no conception of what life was like under the old East German regime.

But the GDR footballers lived well. They were virtually professionals allowed to visit foreign countries, and enjoying various privileges.

In return they had to assist the police in their quest to weed out the so-called "Enemies of the state". Many others probably would have done the same.

Meanwhile the future of Torsten Gutschow of Dynamo Dresden, the first active sportsman of the former GDR to admit being an informer, is uncertain. Some commentators are predicting that he could be forced to continue his career abroad, and contacts with Spanish clubs have been confirmed.

Ironically, it now appears that Gutschow was being spied upon by other footballers at Dresden.

Ex-GDR international and current all-German squad member Matthias Sammer says: "I know that both Gutschow and Frank Lieberam passed on information to the Stasi about me, and this surprised me. I went to school with Gutschow, and Frank was a close friend. He rang me to offer his apologies. I don't condone what he did. But I accept his explanation and excuses.

"My father suffered more than I. He was not a party member and was persecuted throughout his managerial job with Dynamo Dresden. And he was eventually fired because he didn't accept the dogma and education. He warned me not to become club captain, not to join the SED (Communist Party) and never to get mixed up in politics. That is probably why the Stasi never approached me. My father and I now have clear consciences. But we are not martyrs."

It is of course easy to proffer opinions from a distance. Every case merits individual scrutiny. And, like all East Germans, Doll wants to forget the past.

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PATRICK **BARCLAY**

THE OBSERVER

WE GAVE SO LET'S TAKE

Wing-backs and libero should suit England

THERE were fears, during the exclusion of English clubs from European competition after the Heysel disaster, that we would be out of the mainstream of footballing fashion. They could hardly have been more misplaced.

The period saw a wave of Anglomania sweep the continent, with coaches adopting practices — the offside trap, the harrying of opponents when attacks broke down so possession was swiftly regained — that had long been taken for granted here.

The finest club side, Milan, was created (if Messrs Sacchi and Berlusconi will forgive the simplification) by putting outstanding Dutch and Italian players in an English framework.

But the idea that English teams always play the same way, so often heard from foreign coaches, is so far from the truth, as the national manager, Graham Taylor, remarked recently, that it verges on the mischievous.

As if to illustrate his point, Taylor arranged his men in 4-5-1 formation for the European Championship qualifier in Poland, switched to 4-4-2 for the second half — and promptly changed tack again, when France came to London for a friendly, by employing a third centre-back.

In this he reflected the fertility of the English League, which, contrary to supposition in some quarters, is distinguished above almost all else by the prevalence of contrast, in terms not only of formations but of styles; where else would the big-foot game of percentages be so vividly and regularly tested against nobly principled passing?

Whatever you want, you may find it in England. Unless, of course, you want a settled national side. And that is the object Taylor must now pursue in his preparations for Sweden.

The trouble with variety is that, while it makes our domestic game a jack of all trades, the national side are held back from being master of any.

In this context I must declare my own preference. I felt that England came back from the World Cup with the embryo of a 3-5-2 style that would suit their players perfectly, even if it had never been fully developed at club level back home.

For years I had seen England suffer for a lack of numbers in midfield, and heard Bobby Robson say nothing could be done about it because English defenders were most comfortable in a back four.

In Italy, however, Robson was persuaded by senior players and his assistant, Don Howe, to use an extra defender, Mark Wright, and England looked a markedly more flexible side for it. Eureka? Not quite. But after requiring a bit of luck to get to the semi-finals they performed splendidly before losing on penalties to the masters of their adopted system, West Germany.

Andreas Brehme . . . performs the functions of full-back and winger.

Mark Wright . . . England looked more flexible with him at the back.

Cursed

When Taylor took over from Robson, he jocularly cursed his predecessor, explaining that the tactical adjustment was to have been his innovation. Those of us who wished it had come earlier were filled with encouragement. Yet Taylor's first 18 months hardly justified that.

After alternating between the new system and the old, he fielded a back four against the Germans in a friendly at Wembley — his first defeat.

To ward off another when the French came, he put markers on Jean-Pierre Papin and Eric Cantona, called back Wright to the colours, and achieved a victory that will be of considerable psychological assistance when the countries joust in earnest this summer.

Gaetano Scirea . . . his occasional advances could be devastating.

Alan Hansen . . . so comfortable on the ball.

Afterwards, pointing out that Wright had missed the Germans' visit during a prolonged bout of injury, the manager indicated that a third centre-back was now enshrined.

So here we go again, impatiently. I write this without knowing how England have performed in their latest friendly, in Czechoslovakia, but with lingering concern that Taylor's belief in the system is lukewarm, that he sees it primarily as a means of bolting his defence, as he did at Aston Villa, rather than — as I believe — a method of releasing at least one extra player in attack.

Certainly

Against the French, certainly, only the defensive part of the operation worked. England never really had a genuine five-man midfield, because Stuart Pearce continued to play as a left-back.

If the 3-5-2 system is to reach fruition, there must be "wing-backs" on the flanks. Whether they are trained as full-backs or wingers does not matter, as long as, like Germany's Stefan Reuter and Andreas Brehme, they perform the functions of both. And there must be a libero rather than an old-fashioned sweeper.

The spare defender, says the French manager, Michel Platini, in reference to his own Laurent Blanc, has an obligation to go forward when possible because he is the only free man on the pitch, "the joker in the pack".

Taylor says he will encourage Wright to do that but adds, a little prematurely: "If Mark was a fellow who would could come out and play, he'd have already shown us it. I don't think it is a natural part of his game."

For fleeting moments in the World Cup, it was, and I hope Wright is able to prove Taylor wrong, for England at full strength have the basis of an excellent attacking side.

They will discover their full potential only if they can move forward in compact unity.

In these circumstances the extra man — Platini's joker — can be vital. The classic example, of course, was Franz Beckenbauer, but there have been others since: the late Gaetano Scirea, of Enzo Bearzot's Italy, whose occasional advances could be devastating; the veteran Morten Olsen, whose playmaking was crucial to Denmark's achievements under Sepp Piontek (with a side less gifted, in several positions, than Taylor's England).

Concept

But for some reason the concept of the true libero seems to elude the English, or, to be more precise, the British, for the great Alan Hansen was surely the finest libero Scotland and Liverpool ever had.

"I don't think that we have anyone left in the Football League today who is as comfortable on the ball as Hansen," says Taylor. Maybe so.

But perhaps it is time to cast aside the last remnants of conservatism.

After all, it was conventional wisdom among English managers to say that our defenders were not natural limpet markers, until Taylor allowed Martin Keown to show Cantona otherwise. Let us now find out what defenders can add to our attack.

Europe has taken hustle and the offside trap from us. Let us take wing-backs and the libero from them.

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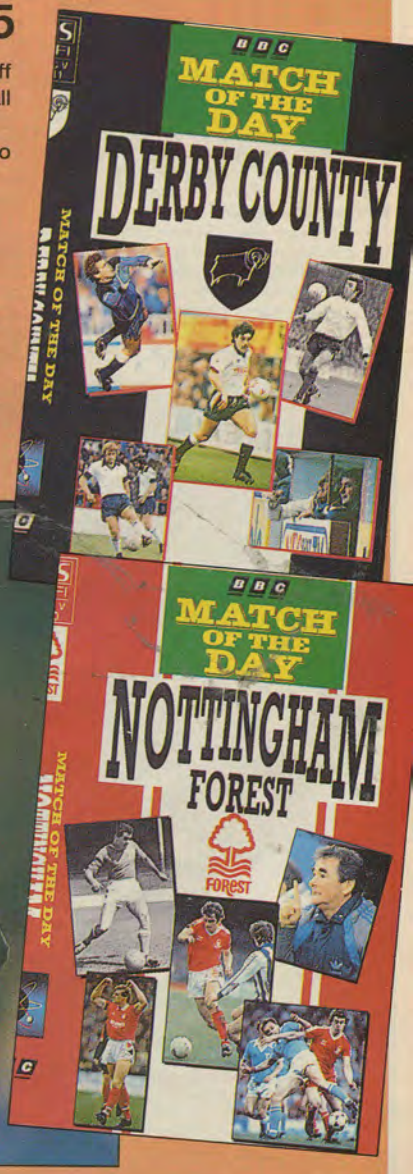
QUESTION

Brian Clough has been manager of both Derby County and Nottingham Forest and led them to great success. But who took over from Clough as manager of Derby in 1975?



Africa

CASH CRISIS HINDERS THE GAME'S PROGRESS

BY GEORGE **OBIERO**

SOCCER in Africa is caught in a vicious circle. There simply is not enough money around.

There is plenty of talent in the continent, but its development has been greatly hampered by lack of cash.

Look at mineral-rich Zambia in East and Central Africa. The national team reached consecutive finals of the African Nations' Cup for the first time, having been bronze medallists in 1990, were unable to fulfil the planned preparation, which should have included a tour of North and West African countries.

When the national soccer body told the Government of the costs, games were arranged in neighbouring Zimbabwe and Malawi instead.

At one stage, Zambia's participation in the finals hung in the balance. Reason: lack of funds.

The Algerian national squad threatened to pull out of the Nations' Cup finals unless their wages were doubled, but the Government refused to give in to what one newspaper described as "shocking and intolerable blackmail".

There was a great deal of football played during the days of colonial rule in Africa, but the sport was not organised on a continental basis until the creation of the Confederation of African Football (CAF) in 1957.

In the short space of time since then, the most popular game in the world has become firmly entrenched as the most popular sport in Africa.

Today the game produces first-class players.

There is no doubt that Africa is the fastest-growing power in international soccer.

The performance of Morocco and Algeria in the 1986 World Cup and Cameroon and Egypt in the 1990 World Cup brought streams of scouts from Europe's richest clubs to spy on games in Africa at every level.

The result has been a northward flow of talent that has alerted the average European fan, for the first time, to the extraordinary skills available beyond the Mediterranean.

For the first time, too, Africa will have three teams in the World Cup finals. FIFA's decision to give the continent three chances among the 24 nations battling for honours in 1994 came in the wake of Africa's sterling performance during the 1990 finals.

Achievement

Cameroon's "Indomitable Lions" became the first African country to reach the quarter-finals, and Egypt's draw against the then European champions, Holland, was no mean achievement.

Yet despite all these achievements, soccer still struggles to find money.

"Football is the top sport in most African countries but many governments can't fund the game properly," says George Ogan, former chairman of the Nigerian Amateur Athletic Association (NAAA).

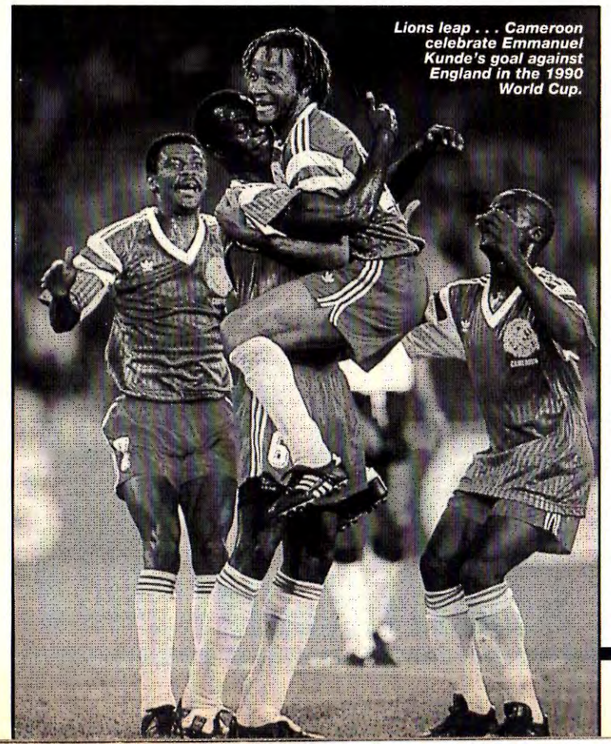
Former England player Bobby Charlton believes the African nations will become an increasingly powerful threat to the Europeans and South Americans, particularly if sponsorship is found to help support teams. Charlton (right), now heavily involved in the coaching of young players worldwide, said recently: "The only problem is money. They don't have enough of it.

"Because of that, their players have to leave home and go and play in the European Leagues, and the national sides cannot afford to travel to play the games they would like to.

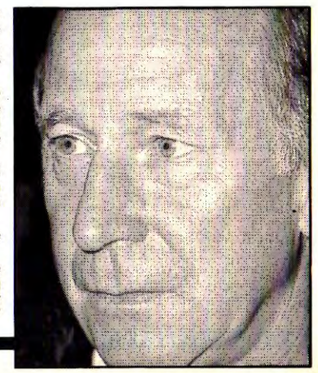
"To see what can happen, you need only look at Cameroon. Their football in the World Cup in Italy brought them great exposure.

Ghana are very strong, too. So are Egypt, Morocco and Algeria.

"They all have good physiques and are capable of producing outstanding players. They also have the will, they need more experience. And more cash."



Lions leap . . . Cameroon celebrate Emmanuel Kunde's goal against England in the 1990 World Cup.



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The hosts and the holders, Ivory Coast, are exempt from the preliminaries.

There are eight qualifying groups, with two teams going through from sections Three and Eight, and one from all the others.

THE GROUPS ARE:

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Five: Mauritius, South Africa, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Six: Burundi, Chad, Congo, Guinea

Seven: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Liberia, Tanzania

Eight: Egypt, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco

PRELIMINARY ROUND:

JUNE

12-14: Lesotho v Botswana, Guinea Bissau v Cape Verde Islands.

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AUGUST

14-16: Benin v Niger, Gabon v Cameroon, Uganda v Ethiopia, Sudan v Nigeria, Algeria v CVI/Guinea Bissau, Senegal v Togo, Zaire v Mozambique, Botswana/Lesotho v Kenya, Zimbabwe v Africa, Zambia v Mauritius, Chad v Guinea, Burundi v Congo, Tanzania v Ghana, Burkina Faso v Liberia, Mauritania v Mali, Malawi v Egypt.

28-30: Cameroon v Benin, Niger v Gabon, Nigeria v Uganda, Ethiopia v Sudan, Sierre Leone v Algeria, Senegal v CVI/Guinea Bissau, Kenya v Zaire, Mozambique v Botswana/Lesotho, Mauritius v Zimbabwe, S.Africa v Zambia, Congo v Chad, Guinea v Burundi, Liberia v Tanzania, Ghana v Burkina Faso, Morocco v Mauritania, Malawi v Mali.

OCTOBER

2-4: Togo v Algeria, CVI/Guinea Bissau v Sierre Leone, Egypt v Mauritania, Mali v Morocco.

NOVEMBER

6-8: Sierre Leone v Senegal, Togo v CVI/Guinea Bissau, Morocco v Malawi, Egypt v Mali.

JANUARY 1993

8-10: Senegal v Algeria, Sierre Leone v Togo, Malawi v Mauritania, Morocco v Egypt.

22-24: CVI/Guinea Bissau v Algeria, Togo v Senegal, Mali v Mauritania, Egypt v Malawi.

APRIL

9-11: Gabon v Benin, Niger v Cameroon, Sudan v Uganda, Ethiopia v Nigeria, Algeria v Sierre Leone, CVI/Guinea Bissau v Senegal, Botswana/Lesotho v Zaire, Mozambique v Kenya, Zambia v Zimbabwe, S. Africa v Mauritius, Burundi v Chad, Guinea v Congo, Burkina Faso v Tanzania, Ghana v Liberia, Mauritania v Morocco, Mali v Malawi.

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JULY

9-11: Benin v Cameroon, Gabon v Niger, Uganda v Nigeria, Sudan v Ethiopia, Senegal v Sierra Leone, CVI/Guinea Bissau v Togo, Zaire v Kenya, Botswana/Lesotho v Mozambique, Zimbabwe v Mauritius, Zambia v S. Africa, Chad v Congo, Burundi v Guinea, Tanzania v Liberia, Burkina Faso v Ghana, Malawi v Morocco, Mali v Egypt.

23-25: Benin v Gabon, Cameroon v Niger, Uganda v Sudan, Nigeria v Ethiopia, Algeria v Senegal, Togo v Sierra Leone, Zaire v Botswana/Lesotho, Kenya v Mozambique, Zimbabwe v Zambia, Mauritius v S. Africa, Chad v Burundi, Congo v Guinea, Tanzania v Burkina Faso, Liberia v Ghana, Mauritania v Malawi, Egypt v Morocco.

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WSAP

THE Brian Glanville COLUMN

Catenaccio controversy goes on and on and on . . .

THE controversy over catenaccio goes on and on. When Corrado Orrico, the somewhat eccentric 50-year-old manager of Internazionale, suddenly resigned some weeks ago — he didn't slip, he wasn't pushed — Helenio Herrera figuratively danced on his grave. That would teach him, he declared, in essence, to go changing his beloved Inter to zonal defence.

Well, he would say that, wouldn't he, having committed Inter to a dour catenaccio 30 years ago, when he arrived from Barcelona, though he had never previously been a prophet of defensive football.

That likeable, decent Tuscan, Armando Picchi, operated for many seasons at the back, sweeping up most of what got through the ruthless man-to-man markers. Even under Giovanni Trapattoni, until the end of last season, Inter were still playing in much the same way; and Herrera insists that the other, much more successful, Milanese club, Milan, were not as "zonal" as Arrigo Sacchi would have you believe.

Yet in the latter 1960s, Franz Beckenbauer at Bayern Munich — though not, yet awhile, with West Germany — was showing what could and should be done by a sweeper. The ironic thing is, as he once explained to me, that the man who inspired him was none other than Inter's giant attacking full-back, Giacinto Facchetti.

If Facchetti could go attacking down the flank, thought Beckenbauer, why could it not be done from the centre? Bayern let him do it, though it took much longer for Helmut Schoen, then West Germany's team chief, to agree to such a bold experiment. Ajax followed the example of Bayern, and "Total Football" was born. In those far-off days, Franz had a wonderful change of pace to complement his initiative.

The sad thing was that in the 1970 World Cup, it probably cost him and West Germany qualification for the Final.

At the Azteca Stadium, when Beckenbauer was tearing through the defence, the Italian sweeper, the far less adventurous Cera, malevolently scythed him down.

How sad that in those days the professional foul went unpunished by expulsion. West Germany got no more than a free-kick, Franz had to play the rest of the game with an arm in a sling, and Italy went on to collapse in the Final. Mind you, if Gordon Banks hadn't drunk that fatal glass of beer, Germany probably would not have been at the Azteca, anyway.

Strategy seems as foreign as ever

All of which is to say that Graham Taylor's decision to use three centre-halves again with England doesn't appeal to me. For reasons of which he is as much aware as anybody. Mark Wright, by his own admission, hasn't the confidence, call it what you will, to bring the ball forward as sweeper and join in attacks. Which means that England's model of catenaccio, however successful the man-to-man marking may have been against France, is no more than a throwback to a surely obsolescent strategy.

Taylor, alas, may be correct when he says that if Wright cannot do it, nor can anybody else in England. The strategy, in fact, seems as foreign as ever.

Az
19

Berne battle . . . Brazil keep Hungary at bay during the World Cup quarter-final in 1954.

POWER TO THE PE

AFTER 33 years with *The Sunday Times*, I have joined *The People* as sports columnist. They made me, in the vernacular, an offer I couldn't refuse. And, as Bryon Butler, that experienced radio commentator reminded me, I was thus obliged to go "Looking for an Idiom," the title of an essay I published in the 1960s.

The purport of it was that sports journalism in Britain had need of an idiom, such as existed in the United States; one which crossed the gap between the "quality" and the popular Press.

My argument was that sports journalists on both sides of the divide were by definition failures — the upmarket journalists because they failed to reach the mass audience when writing about sports with a mass following, the popular paper journalists because they were condemned to write in a highly stylised manner, which presumed the limitations of their readers.

By contrast, the Americans had produced such sports writers as Ring and John Lardner, Damon Runyon and Red Smith. I might have added that in Italy, France, Spain and Latin America, sports journalists in general write in the same style, for an audience to which they pay respect. In the sense, that is, of presuming them to be intelligent people, capable of reading and understanding

Azteca agony . . . Beckenbauer goes to retrieve the ball from the net after Rivera's winner in the 1970 World Cup semi-final.

HE PEOPLE, I HOPE

decent prose. But things in Britain have moved on. The "social revolution" took care of that. According to Jim White of *The Independent*, reviewing a recent, wantonly pretentious, anthology of football writing, things seemed to change after the 1966 World Cup Final when I, "a fashionable novelist," became football correspondent of *The Sunday Times*. Thanks, Jim, on all counts; you are only eight years out of date. I first covered the World Cup for *The Sunday Times* in 1958. And yes, I too think it was coincidence.

After 33 years it's time for a change and a new audience

The social revolution meant that bright working-class boys, actors, writers, academics, directors, broke through, and brought their predilection for soccer with them. I just happened to be there at the time. Papers like *The Sunday Times* acquired huge readerships for football, partly I feel through disaffection; because the popular Press underestimated their readers.

When Hugh McIlvanney, at his best surely the best and most versatile of all British sports writers, went to the *Daily Express*, I thought the gap would be bridged at last. But Hugh didn't write about sport. He was assigned to writing general features, and before long returned to *The Observer*, where he had made his name.

Desmond Hackett, who died recently having almost attained the ripe old age of 80, continued for a time as the chief sports columnist; very much one of an earlier era.

Succeeding Henry Rose, an elegantly turned out, endlessly provocative columnist who had flourished in the North West, and whom Hackett took as his model, he revelled in stunts, in highly "personalised" journalism, in "scoops" which sprang from his own fertile invention, rather than from mere, dull reality.

John Rodda of *The Guardian* referred, possibly with tongue in cheek, to Desmond's lively coverage of the 1954 World Cup; which, legend had it, kept him a job which was in danger. In fact I wrote about this episode in Looking For An Idiom; searing stuff it was, concerning the Battle of Berne, when Hungary and Brazil kicked lumps out of one another, and Hackett wrote about having his suit ripped, his shirt torn, being thrown over a barrier by Swiss police — so he did mean a riot — but nonetheless escorting the wife of the Yorkshire referee, Arthur Ellis, to safety. Stirring reportage, but there were those who suggested Des never got out of the Press Box.

Television, older journalists will tell you, provided the death knell for the Hackett-Rose type of journalism. In other words, you can't get away with it now, because people can see for themselves.

A blast from Banks

BRAVE little fellow, Tony Banks, the somewhat garrulous Labour MP who made his name on the deeply lamented GLC. Not for him the cowardly cloak of Parliamentary privilege.

Not long ago, he went one evening to Stamford Bridge for a Zenith something or other Cup tie between Chelsea, the team he appears to favour, and Southampton. Later, in the weekend edition of *The Guardian*, he excoriated the referee, speaking of "little Hitlers" and deploring the sending off, very early in the game, of the Chelsea centre-half, Jason Cundy (below).

I was at this game, and must declare that the referee, no little Hitler, was absolutely right, even if the rule whereby he sent off Cundy was absolutely wrong. Cundy was hopelessly beaten for pace by Alan Shearer, later to become such a hero against France at Wembley, lumbered after him, and brought him down in the box. Result: a penalty, duly converted by Matthew Le Tissier, and the expulsion.

Under the fatuous ruling imposed on the game by FIFA in 1990, it was simply automatic.

The dreaded Havelange, once a water polo king, first rebuked our Football League for daring to bring in the "professional foul" rule but finally, the best or worst part of a decade later, implemented it himself, not merely outside the area — the whole object of the exercise — but inside, as well. So Cundy went off.

If Banks wants to talk of little Hitlers, perhaps he should direct his gaze elsewhere.

Pitch problems

SAN SIRO, the Olympic Stadium in Rome, Villa Park, White Hart Lane (above), Old Trafford, Stamford Bridge. What they all, alas, have in common is a dreadful pitch.

In Milan, the building of that extra tier for the 1990 World Cup, combined with the use of acidic sand (as in Rome) was fatal to the grass, which has been laid again and again.

San Siro can scarcely remove its upper tier, but it is urgently necessary that Spurs and the rest make improved pitches a priority.

spotlight on

Pascal *Vahirua*

OLD FASHIONED

New star . . . Tahitian-born Pascal Vahirua in action for France against Iceland in Paris (right) and for his club Auxerre (below).

AUXERRE'S Pascal Vahirua is a rare breed of footballer. Not only has he written South Seas soccer history as the first Tahitian to represent France, he is also one of the few genuine left-wingers in the international game today.

Vahirua is a member of an endangered species, but his old-fashioned wing play is definitely in vogue for both club and country.

"At Auxerre we believe in wingers," says club manager Guy Roux. "And in Christopher Cocard and Pascal Vahirua we have two of the most talented.

"Pascal makes a large proportion of our goals. He has great ball control, hits good crosses and is extremely quick.

"Jean-Pierre Papin is France's main attacking threat through the middle, but Pascal provides much-needed width and acceleration."

France manager Michel Platini shares Roux's sentiments. Since giving Vahirua his first cap, against Kuwait in January 1990, Platini has watched him blossom into one of the team's most adroit creators.

Outwitted

On that February evening in Montpellier two years ago, Vahirua went on as substitute and wasted no time in making his mark.

Ten minutes from time he outwitted poor Thomas Berthold and crossed for Eric Cantona to head the winner in a 2-1 victory. He continued in the role of provider during France's triumphant march through the Euro '92 qualifiers, setting up Papin's second goal in the 2-1 win over Czechoslovakia in Paris, and then flighting a delicate free-kick for Laurent Blanc to score in the 3-1 home defeat of Spain.

Yet Vahirua's most complete display came in the 2-1 victory in Czechoslovakia last September.

"I have not had too many difficulties in settling into the France side," says Vahirua. "Michel Platini just tells me to play as I do for Auxerre.

"Platini is close to the national players and has made us believe in ourselves.

"He was my idol, and I remember going to watch him back in 1980 when St Etienne visited Tahiti on tour."

Pascal Vahirua, who was second to Robert Slater of Lens and Australia in the 1991 Oceania Footballer of the Year poll, was born on March 9, 1966, in Papeete, and joined the Mataia club at the age of eight.

"I was completely football crazy," he says. "My father and elder brother had both played for Mataia and so it was natural that I signed for them."

The young Vahirua shone in midfield for the club and in 1982 he went to France to take part in a trial at INF Vichy. But his first trip abroad was to end in disappointment: he failed the physical.

That setback, however, would soon be forgotten. Vahirua was picked for the Polynesian youth team and helped them to an historic win in Corsica.

"That game is a tremendous memory for me because I scored the winning goal," he recalls. "It was the first time a Polynesian team had won in France."

Vahirua was quite content to play the game for fun and believed that a professional career was beyond him. But in the summer of 1983, Auxerre coach Guy Roux visited Tahiti and was struck by Vahirua's pace.

"Roux offered me a month's trial at Auxerre, and I did not hesitate," says Vahirua.

The omens for success on the mainland were not good. Several Polynesians had tried to make the grade in France before him, and all had failed.

Vahirua, however, was determined not to catch an early flight home. He performed well in his first month at Auxerre and Roux retained him.

"I was determined to succeed in France and was prepared to make any sacrifice." says Vahirua. "When I did feel homesick, the coaching staff and my new friends in the team encouraged me to persevere.

"Of course, it was difficult at first. I was only 17 and had to adjust to a completely new way of life and a different type of football.

"Not only did Auxerre move me from midfield to the left wing, I also had to change my style. In Tahiti I loved to dribble and only passed when I had to. The Auxerre management forced me to become a team player."

He went on to help the Auxerre reserves to clinch the 1984 Third Division title and a year later he made his senior debut in a home win over Brest.

During that 1985-86 season he played only five League matches, but in the following year he was given an extended run in the Auxerre attack alongside Eric Cantona. Their partnership was a huge success and the club finished fourth.

The critics sang the praises of Auxerre's home-grown talent. But while Cantona, keeper Bruno Martini and defenders Basile Boli and William Prunier were all capped, Vahirua was regularly ignored.

"I did not get upset," he says. "I was pleased for my team-mates, and just carried on working at my game. I told myself that my turn would come eventually."

That patience was rewarded in January 1990 with selection for France's winter tour of Kuwait.

Vahirua remembers vividly his first international against the host nation: "It was undoubtedly the greatest moment of my life. Every footballer dreams of playing for his country.

"I was excited to play in the French First Division. But representing France is the ultimate."

Helping France to the European Championship would be an even bigger honour.

NICK **BIDWELL** WS

spotlight on

Glen Stromberg

QUIET MAN QUITS

Past Master . . . Glenn Stromberg in action for Sweden against Brazil (right) and for his club Atalanta (below).

SWEDEN, hosts for the European Championship this summer, have had an unexpected blow . . . from one of their own most influential players.

Glenn Peter Stromberg has decided the time has come to leave soccer, at 32. Mild-mannered midfielder Stromberg, with the famed hippy guise, sees the end of the 91-92 Italian season as the moment to quit the game.

In the meantime, the Swedish Football Federation are left wondering whether this suggests Euro '92 will have to proceed without their captain.

Stromberg deliberated over the decision for months, until one sleepless night confirmed his desire to make an exit while still at the top of his form.

"I want to retire while I still have the say," he says. "I don't wish it to be forced on me. I'm not frightened to give up football, even though I realise that working outside the sport isn't easy. I have faith in myself."

Arrived

Stromberg arrived in Italy from Benfica in 1984, to join Atalanta of Bergamo. Eight years on, he is described by the club president, Antonio Percassi, as the symbol of both the club and the city, "a human image of Bergamo."

He has made over 200 League appearances, scoring 18 goals, become the most loyal of Atalanta's imports over the years, being eighth on their list of longest-serving players.

Stromberg's humility clearly endears him to the fans. He is an unassuming character, and typically feels that he will not be missed.

"It is only a chapter that is about to close, even if a longer chapter than usual because I stayed for eight years," he says.

"But others will arrive after my departure and I believe the club will not have any trouble replacing me. I don't think my departure will upset anybody."

Many will not agree — Percassi most of all. He says: "Every club wishes to have someone like Stromberg. His values as a person makes him the best overseas player ever to have arrived in Italy."

Stromberg's peaceful life away from the limelight possibly deterred him from receiving the fame his talent deserved. Atalanta, a "provincial" side in the multi-million realm of the Italian League, will feel fortunate and honoured that a player of his calibre did not crave a bigger club.

Atalanta's European Cup-winners' Cup adventure in 1988, was the closest Stromberg went to a medal in Italy.

A semi-final place was no mean achievement for a team so often overlooked and underestimated, even though they had qualified as losing finalists after being beaten by double-winners Napoli. They are in the hunt for a UEFA Cup spot again this season, still causing a surprise or two after reaching the quarter-final of the same competition a year ago.

Their reluctance to comply with the norm has enabled them to spend 17 years out of the last 20 in the top flight, a record for a provincial club.

Stromberg's decision to retire saddened the club, who will lose so much more than a player.

"The boys were a little shocked, but now they realise that it is what I really want," he said. And the affection he feels for Atalanta and the city of Bergamo influenced his decision to carry on living in Italy.

"Atalanta have given me so much, more than I ever could return. I feel fulfilled and fortunate to have become a footballer."

Stromberg has a message for incoming overseas players. His character and intelligence prepared him in overcoming the difficulties encountered when adapting to a different culture, and he feels that complaints are pointless.

"Foreigners should remember that if the interest and the huge pressures did not exist in Italy, there would be less money around and in turn the wage packets would be smaller," he says. "In which case, they would not have come to Italy in the first place."

Whether in the blue and black stripes of Atalanta or in his national colours, the quiet man will be missed. His sense of responsibility led to his association with the children of his adopted city. His most recent school visit centred on the crowd violence that has tarnished the game for so long.

As a role model he cannot be bettered, and he readily accepts the obligation footballers have in setting an example. "Youngsters can copy our behaviour, so we need to be careful," he says.

Ironically, Stromberg's final League match on May 24 will be against Internazionale, the team he faced on his Italian debut.

Sweden's coach, Tommy Svensson, will no doubt try to persuade Stromberg to carry on playing, at least until the final week in June. So will others. But he claims that his decision is irrevocable.

"I will feel a little nostalgia, he says. "Even so, I will not change my mind. Believe me — I will not play any more."

RAY **DELLA PIETRA**

letters

We welcome your letters on any topic concerning international football. Write to: Editor's Letters, World Soccer, 25th Floor, King's Reach Tower, Stamford Street, London SE1 9LS. We regret that Information Desk queries (no long lists please) can be dealt with only through this column.

A disaster averted

SIR — Having read the March 92 issue, I feel I must write concerning points made by Brian Glanville, frequently expressed both in this magazine and *The Sunday Times*. He mentions, when writing about the Hillsborough disaster, that the semi-final took place the previous year without problem. I was at both games, 1988 and 1989, and while the "official" tale may be as above, I can say that a similar situation was avoided by good luck rather than by good management.

I was in the centre pen at the Leppings Lane end and was unable to watch the game face-on, such was the number of people squeezed into this area, and consequently suffered a fair amount of physical pain as a result. The events of 1989 came as no surprise. This is the sort of situation which certainly used to be a regular occurrence (especially at Wembley), and in my opinion is almost entirely due to the incompetence/greed of the football authorities. The age-old argument re FA Cup Final ticket allocations which will crop up again this season emphasises this point.

One further point concerns Brian Glanville's constant sniping at Liverpool's supporters. This is both unnecessary and unfair — could it be due to the criticism he has received in their fanzines?

— A. GLEDHILL, Netherton, Huddersfield, England.

Disaster area . . . Leppings Lane end, April 15, 1989.

Viva Italia!

SIR — I wholeheartedly agree with Michael Plimmer's letter (February) that more credit should be given to Italian players.

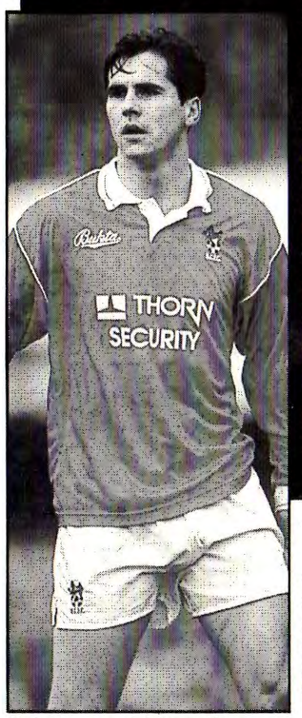
In Italia '90, Italy were far and away the best footballing side and were desperately unlucky not to get to the final. If they had, they would have emulated their brilliant success in Spain in 1982 with another win over West Germany.

Our players in the UK could learn a great deal from the dedication and technical expertise shown by the Italians. VIVA ITALIA!

— JOHN MURPHY, Edinburgh, Scotland.

Highly technical . . . Giannini of Italy and De Leon of Uruguay.

Skill, but . . .



Playboy image . . . Dziekanowski.

SIR — Jim Hooley's article (March) concerning Scottish football, in particular Dariusz Dziekanowski, stated that his presence in the reserves was solely owing to a playboy image.

I suggest that his failure on the park was the reason he was not in the first team. After an initial flurry of goals his scoring record became increasingly poor and he missed important chances, including one to win the Scottish Cup versus Aberdeen in 1990.

Dziekanowski rarely tried to pick up the ball and attack defences directly or seek to get in behind them, normally preferring to lay the ball straight back when receiving it. When Tommy Coyne went on for him in a 2-1 win over Motherwell the difference was immense as Coyne got behind the defence, scored twice, and Dziekanowski was out of the first team.

Though Dziekanowski has great skill he failed to use it properly at Celtic and the sight of him playing for much of the time in his own half for Poland in Glasgow was indicative of his tactical shortcomings.

I would not expect him to score many goals for Bristol City but if they use his skills in other ways, or direct him on how to use his talent to its full potential, he may well be a bargain. I wish him all the best, for he is above all blessed with great talent.

— VINCENT BROWN, Bellshill, England.

Pushed aside . . . Sharpe.

Keep the Parc

SIR — Instead of the French Football Federation spending money on creating a new stadium at Melun-Serart, surely it would be easier to rebuild Parc des Princes. The national stadium should be in Paris.

Fixtures could be played at other venues until the work is finished.

— T. GILKS, 42 Hallett Road, Brighton, E. Sussex, England.

Sharpe threat

SIR — Lee Sharpe, one of Manchester United's top men in the 1990-91 Cup-winners' Cup, has finally found his career threatened. The golden boy of last year has been pushed aside by the golden boy of this year — Ryan Giggs.

Poor Sharpe had a bad injury which left him out of the game for a while. And when he is finally fit Alex Ferguson rarely put him on even as substitute!

My view is that Lee should look to the future and move on. I'm sure many clubs would take him on straight away. However, if he stays he may become a Jim Leighton or Danny Wallace — forgotten and unwanted.

He did wonders for United. Now it's time to say goodbye and move on, there's lots left in him yet!

— MICHAEL PLIMMER, Wayside, Taunton, Somerset, England.

True fans

SIR — This letter is in response to the statement made by John Ferretti (January) that America will have no interest in our World Cup.

Yes, Mr Ferretti is correct that the whole country will not be interested. But not only is that not a necessary requirement for success, it is not wanted. We true American soccer fans don't want the involvement of an indifferent mass. Instead, I want the World Cup to be shared by only those who truly appreciate it.

If 90 per cent of this country does not care about soccer, fine. It still leaves that 10 per cent to enjoy the Cup, and in a country of this size, you're talking about 20 million people.

— RICK PETERSEN, El Cerrito, California, United States.

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Penpals

GHANAIAN football fan seeks penpals in UK, United States, Australia and Japan, m/f. All letters answered.

— Akrong Nii Klottey, c/o Presec, Box 98, Legon, Accra, Ghana.

GERMAN soccer fan, 24, wants to correspond with supporters in Italy, United States, Canada, Spain, France and Portugal. Please write in English or German.

— Carsten Holthaus, Oberer Worthhagen 38, 5880 Lodenscheid, Germany.

DEAF 21-year-old, supporter of Inter Milan and Juventus, would like penfriend in Italy. Please write with photo.

— Ashfaq A. Karim, 32 Oak Street, Burston-on-Trent, Staffs, England.

MY favourites are Manchester United. They're really good! I'm a 15-year-old girl seeking penpals in England.

— Maria B. Wist, Kvernvien 2, 4630 Kristiansand, Norway.

I PLAY soccer and would like penpals to discuss tactics, etc.

—Bethel Ibemere, c/o Shell, 21/22 Marina, PO Box 2418, Lagos, Nigeria.

ARGENTINE supporter, 16, seeks penfriends anywhere. All letters answered.

— Mariano Re, Lamadrid 114 (6740) Chacabuco, Buenos Aires.

NIGERIAN football, 18, student, seeks contact with other players to exchange experiences.

— Niyi Ajayi, 5 Bariga Road, Bariga, Lagos.

LEEDS fan, 15, would like to hear from fans of any club in France, Holland, Germany.

— Chris Hardy, 136 Inglewood Drive, Seacroft, Leeds, LS14 6HG, England.

AC MILAN and Marseille fan, 21, seeks to contact others with a view to possible visits.

— Tei Adegu, PO Box 124, Madina, Accra, Ghana.

ANY Tottenham fan interested in writing to similar in Nigeria?

— Chidolute Ogbonna, 4 Alor Street, Fegge-Onitsha, Anambra, Nigeria.

SPURS and Internazionale fan, 19, seeks penpals anywhere in Europe, especially Italy. Write in English please.

— Wayne Miller, 59 Eldon Street, York, YO3 7NE, England.

FOOTBALLER in Ghana seeks to contact others in Europe.

— Anthony Mintah, CI Pres JSS, PO Box 971, Sunyani, Ghana.

RUSSIAN student, 18, Spurs supporter, seeks penfriends in Europe. Please write in English or Russian.

— Ivan Moskalnko, 117602 Akademika Anokhina St., 30-358 Moscow.

SUPPORTER of Manchester United, 15, seeks penpal m/f, any age, anywhere. Write in English only.

— Russell Lee Hart, 9 Lincoln Ave.,Little Lever, Bolton BL3 IEX, England.

MALE penpals from Italy and United States wanted. I'm in my 20s and support Liverpool and AC Milan. All letters answered: English preferably.

— Anthea Flett, The Gables, 142 Middlewich Road, Budheath, Northwich, Cheshire CW9 7DS, England.

FEMALE Marseille and Spurs fan seeks penpals, especially from France and GB. Please write in French/English.

— Carrie Torode, 11 Mount Durand, St. Peter Port, Guernsey, CI.

LIVERPOOL, Sao Paulo, Palmeiras supporter wishes to correspond with m/f fans from South America, particularly Brazil.

— David Peters, 36 Trostre Road, Llanelli, Dyfed SA15 IJY, South Wales.

GREEK fan seeks penpals from UK, America, Ireland, Australia and NZ. All letters answered.

— Vagelis Paulopous, 2 Sint, Frizi St., GR 54629, Thessaloniki, Greece.

STUDENT, 17, fan of AC Milan, Marseille and PSV, seeks penfriends worldwide, writing in English.

— Lolade Bello, 7th Avenue, S Close, Block 1, Flat 3, Festali Town, Lagos, Nigeria.

SOCCER and boxing fan is searching for penpals.

— Abubakar Ahmed, Box 3419, Kumasi, Ghana.

PENPALS wanted by 20-year-old football fan and collector.

— Ted Ekanem, Ministry of Health, PMB 2010, Yaba, Lagos, Nigeria.

SOCCER fan, 18, seeks penpals in UK, Spain, France and other countries.

— Andrey Kuznetsov, 165-49 Peshestreletskaya Street, Voronezh, Russia 394051.

Wanted

AUSTRALIAN fan wants authentic or replica Coventry City and Fiorentina tops, impossible to get here. I will pay all costs.

— Stephen Bricknell, 86 Blackwood Terrace, Holder, ACT, Australia 2611.

Exchanges

CSKA and Crystal Palace fan will exchange all types of soccer souvenirs. I reply to every letter.

— Igor Belkin, F166. b2, h2, Moldavskay St., Moscow 121467.

BADGES etc. for exchange.

— Eric Kwabena Amankonak, PO Box 785, Sunyani, Ghana.

BELGIAN fan wants match tickets from all over the world.

— Robert Luyckfasseel, Frans Timmermans 45, 1600 Leeuw St. Pierre, Belgium.

SOCCER magazines, books, posters etc for exchange. All letters answered.

— Christian Jensen, Skjoldsvej 6, 4200 Slagelse, Denmark.

AUTOGRAPHED Panini, Proset and other cards, catalogues, etc., wanted for exchange, particularly in Italy.

— Gary Milne, Ardeer Place, Fraserburgh, Aberdeenshire, Scotland AB43 5SW.

COLLECTOR will exchange badges and other souvenirs with British and West European collectors.

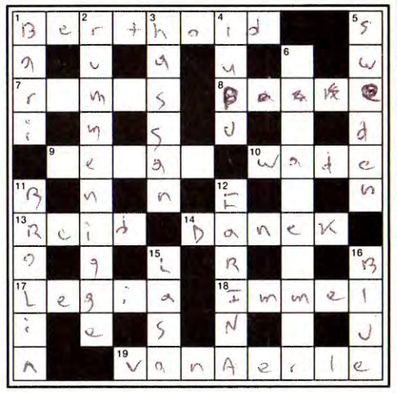
— Igor Zhavoronkov, PO Box 329, 220050 Minsk, USSR.

BADGES, programmes etc. for exchange. All letters answered in English.

— Sergei Marchuk, Prospekt Mira 23/16, 266013 Rovno, Ukraine.

WORLD SOCCER CROSSWORD

COMPILED BY
Christine Ansell



CLUES ACROSS

1. Germany's former Eintracht defender transferred from Roma to Bayern in '91 (8)
2. Figueroa's Uruguayan-born US midfielder (5)
8. England 1966 World Cup squad man holding S'ton's appearance record (5)
9. French Cup winners, 1956 and 1961 (5)
10. Skipper of Australia's national side (4)
13. Manchester City player-manager (4)
14. Czech striker recruited by Le Havre from Tirol in 1991 (5)
17. Warsaw club defeated in the 1991 E.C.W.C. semi-final (5)
18. Dortmund 'keeper in West Germany's 1986 World Cup side (5)
19. Defensive midfielder in the all-conquering Dutch and PSV sides of 1988 (3,5)

CLUES DOWN

1. Italian League club currently served by David Platt (4)
2. Bayern forward voted European Footballer of the Year, 1981-82 (10)
3. Egyptian striker contracted to Neuchatel Xamax (6)
4. Dinamo Bucharest and Romania midfielder at Italia '90 (4)
5. Nation hosting the 1992 European Championship (6)
6. Chilean city whose Sausalito stadium was a 1991 Copa America venue (4,3,3)
11. Parma's Swedish striker, formerly with Norrkoping (6)
12. Platt's colleague at 1 Down, bought from Bruges and sacked in mid-season (6)
15. Antic's defensive signing for Madrid from Sociedad (4)
16. The colour of Platini's France (4)

MARCH SOLUTION

ACROSS: 1. Caniggia 6. Linz 7. Robson 9. Tea Men 10. Nancy 11. Cesar 14. Michel 16. Stiles 17. Hill 18. Montreal

DOWN: 2. Atocha 3. Gento 4. Alzamendi 5. Ince 8. Stockholm 12. Azteca 13. Olsen 15. Ivic

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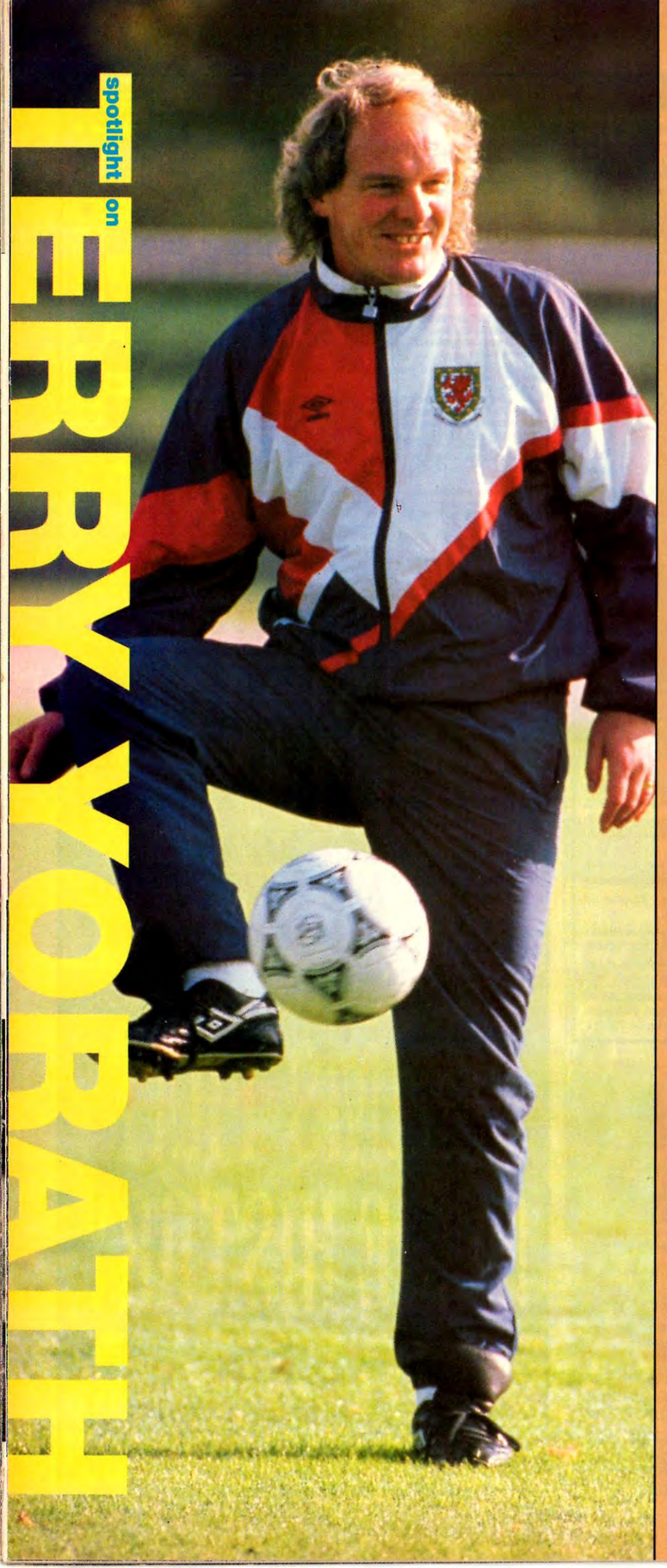
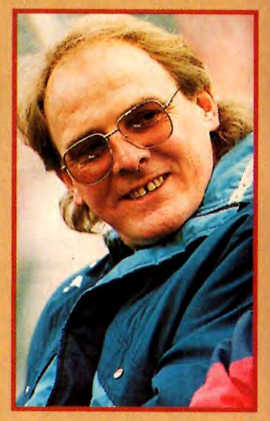


LIFE'S SO MUCH BETTER WITH TERRY

Nothing is impossible says Wales manager



BY BERNARD **BALE**

ONE match may well have changed the whole course of Welsh football history.

"If I hadn't gone to watch my brother playing soccer for Cardiff boys against Rhondda Valley boys, it's just possible that I might have finished up playing rugby for Wales," says Terry Yorath, now Wales manager.

"I used to go to a rugby-playing grammar school and had trials for Cardiff boys as a scrum-half. My interest in soccer was only lukewarm until I went to watch my brother play. Cardiff were one short and they asked me, of all people, to make the number up.

"I had to borrow some boots but I suppose I did all right, because I was asked to join the team on a more regular basis.

"I was watched by Jack Pickard, a scout for Leeds, who had sent John Charles and Gary Sprake to Elland Road. I was invited to visit Leeds . . . and that was how I got into professional soccer."

Yorath went on to win 59 senior caps and was a member of the successful Leeds team of the early 70's, before playing for Coventry, Spurs and Vancouver Whitecaps.

Now, as manager of a reborn Welsh national side, he has carved out some soccer history, and there is every chance that this is just the dawning of a new age. The hard work going on behind the scenes in Welsh soccer is only now beginning to pay.

"Becoming full-time manager of Wales was a turning point for me. I had been trying to do the job part-time, while manager of Swansea. It cannot be done. There is no time to go and look at players for international duty and look at your opposition for your club. Both jobs suffer.

"The trouble was always money. The Football Association of Wales had never been well off and still isn't, but some progress has been made. Things are beginning to look much better at all levels of the game in Wales.

"We have a much better structure to the game now in Wales. We have a good first team squad and a very strong choice in the 22-year-old age group.

"There is a worry about the 19-21 age bracket, where we only have about 16 in the squad so that pretty well picks itself. But there are other age groups coming along and we hope that we shall have a steady flow of Welsh talent moving along from schoolboy to senior.

"We have put down the foundations for that and we are already seeing some of the results."

Yorath still lives in Leeds, and he says: "The job entails a fair bit of travelling. As well as going abroad to look at opponents I drive a lot to see my own players. During the first six months of this season I drove 40,000 miles."

Is he envious of other managers? "Not really. I envy them the money they have available and I envy them their seeding in major tournaments, but that's all. I don't feel like a poor relation. When I look at what Billy Bingham of Northern Ireland has available, I feel pretty good."

There are claims that Welsh soccer has shown some improvement only because the country's rugby has declined, but Yorath disagrees.

"That's not the case. We've made the public take notice — or the players have. They have worked hard and have earned the extra attention.

"The only way rugby has helped is in letting us have Cardiff Arms Park. At last we have a proper ground capable of holding a lot of people. It has given us some extra pride.

"No disrespect to Wrexham, but the national side need a national stadium, not only for pride but for identity.

"The Welsh public have shown that they will support us. When 23,000 turn up to see us play Luxembourg, it shows that the move to our own national stadium was a wise one."

Before becoming national team boss, Yorath had proved himself a capable manager at both Swansea and Bradford. He believes his playing days under top managers have been a great help, but he does not miss club management.

"I used to enjoy the training and day-to-day contact which you don't get as a national manager, but football has changed and I wouldn't swap places with the majority of today's managers," he says.

"When a club is being run by a chairman who tells the manager what he must do, there must be some questions asked. Why employ a manager if a chairman is so capable of running things?

"There are some situations in the game that I don't like, some things that I find quite sad.

"People who are running the game in a rather ruthless manner and using various excuses and scapegoats to keep themselves looking good.

"It was a big change for me to become a full-time national manager but I don't regret it one bit."

He does, however, bitterly regret not getting Wales to the European Championship.

"I was very, very disappointed. When I knew we were out I took a full three days to get over it. I felt dreadful.

"We could have made it and let ourselves down in the end. It was a big anti-climax. Then I heard that people were applauding us for finishing second and I began to feel better.

"It is still a burning ambition to get Wales to the World Cup or the European finals or both. When the draw was made and I looked at our World Cup group I was delighted. We must stand a reasonable chance of getting to the finals."

Yorath would like to see the return of the home international tournament. "It would give us some extra finance, to play against Scotland or England. Even one annual fixture would help. Things are different now and there would be a good attendance at our matches, home and away."

He also would like a holiday.

"I'm away from the family quite a bit and I value my time with them even if my wife Christine is going out of her mind because of all the football on our TV. With satellite there is almost round-the-clock football.

"My son Davey, who is on schoolboy forms with Leeds, watches as much as he can. Our other son, Jordan, is also getting keener although he is only six.

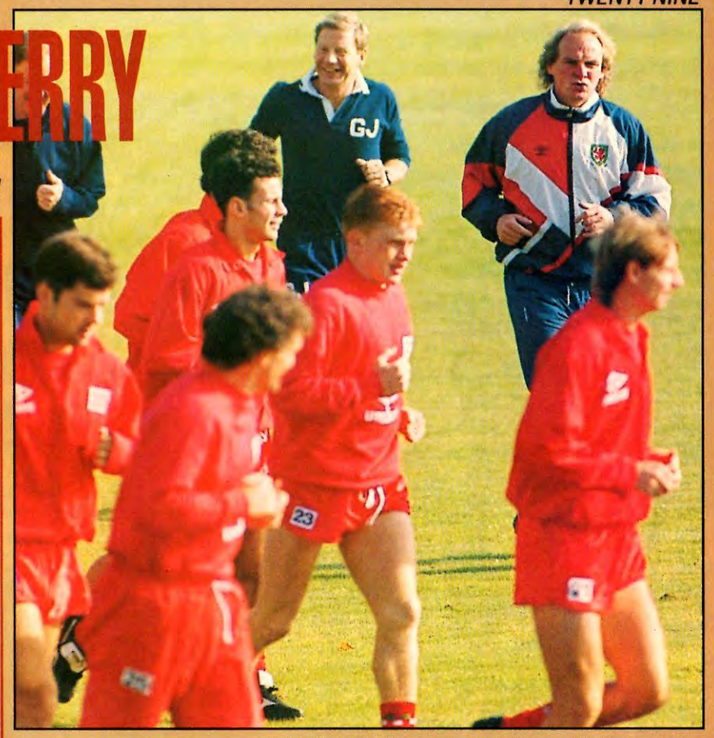
"We are planning a holiday in Hong Kong and Singapore before I get stuck into the World Cup qualifying schedule.

"I like to have a game of golf now and then to get away from it all, and occasionally we go horse racing. That's a hangover from my Leeds days. Some of us were partners in owing a horse. I don't have anything like that now, but it's still a nice day out."

Can Yorath do what nobody has done since 1958 and take Wales to the World Cup finals?

"I learned a long time ago that nothing is impossible if you really try," he says. "We've learned a lot and there is a new spirit in Welsh football. We want to get there and we can."

Brazil's Joao Paulo (below) curls a free-kick round the Welsh wall in the friendly match last September.



Right . . . Yorath training with his players.

A NEW ERA EMERGES

BY MEL AP IOR **THOMAS**

THE new League of Wales is now rapidly taking shape, with formal invitations going out to 20 clubs.

In All, 34 clubs applied, plus two from the eight playing in the English pyramid system, Bangor City and Newtown AFC. Their decision came in the wake of an independent appeals board decision upholding the FAW case for their return to Welsh soccer.

The clubs went through an inspection procedure weighing ground facilities, club arrangements and future plans.

The 20 successful applicants are: *Abergavenny Thursdays, Aberystwyth Town, Afan Lido FC Port Talbot, Bangor City, Briton Ferry Athletic, Caersws, Connah's Quay Nomads, Conwy United, Cwmbran Town, Ebbw Vale, Fflint Town United, Haverfordwest County, Holywell Town, Inter Cardiff, Llanelli AFAC, Llanidloes Town, Maesteg Park Athletic, Mold Alexandra, Newtown and CPD Porthmadog.*

Most of these clubs will now be applying for their part of the £250,000 being made available by the FAW for ground improvements, but a year or so will pass before some are up to the standard already achieved by others, befitting a national First Division club run on amateur or semi-pro status.

Many of those involved with the clubs are progressive and enthusiastic enough to make things happen quickly, which should see the League through the inevitable period of teething troubles.

UEFA's Competitions Committee will soon decide whether the League's champions will be admitted to the Champions' Cup.

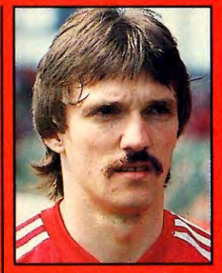
The current Cymru Alliance (equivalent First Division North) leaders and virtual championship certainties, Welshpool, were a surprise omission from the new set-up.

They have a 10-point lead over CPD Porthmadog and have a game in hand, with Connah's Quay, Conwy and last year's champions, Fflint Town, a further three points adrift.

Caersws undoubtedly will be among the top group before long when their fixture backlog is cleared. They are 14 points behind the leaders with a possible 18 points in hand.

In the south, Aberystwyth Town's promising challenge has faded after some poor results of late and the reigning champions, Abergavenny Thursdays, contest the lead with surprise packet Briton Ferry Athletic. Aberystwyth Town and Welsh Cup semi-finalists Maesteg Park Athletic follow in the chasing pack.

Briton Ferry's success is largely one man's doing — former Leeds United and



Wales forward Carl Harris (above), currently managing the West Wales side.

His experience under such managers as Brian Clough, the late Jock Stein and Jimmy Armfield is working wonders for this progressive club.

Colwyn Bay's decision not to join the League of Wales will be a sad loss, and it could well be that if they decide to fold, Wales may not have a representative in the Cup-winners' Cup next year — most certainly so if they go into exile as members of the English FA, which would mean automatic disqualification.

Fellow rebels Barry Town and Newport AFC have already decided on this course of action, sharing grounds with nearby English clubs.

Things are becoming clearer slowly, but one thing is for certain. This is the start of a new era for Welsh soccer.

TREVOR BROOKING

GRAHAM TAYLOR is now approaching his most important spell as England manager. Not only is he hoping for an impressive showing in the European Championship in this summer, but he also needs to lay the foundation for the World Cup qualifiers.

Since taking over from Bobby Robson in 1990 there has been just one defeat, against Germany, and so, in the terms of results, he has been very successful.

I say results, because there have occasions when the side has not played well, but have managed to battle and compete their way through.

After the euphoria of the World Cup in Italy, there was an air of expectancy running throughout the country that England would become a dominant force.

But things never quite work out as smoothly as that, and there were obvious obstacles to overcome.

First of all he had a few of the 1990 side who were coming towards the end of their international career, and so needed replacing. Peter Shilton, Terry Butcher and latterly Bryan Robson have since gone, although the midfield department remains a problem.

The goalkeeping position now looks a straight fight between Chris Woods and David Seaman, with the more experienced Woods established as first choice.

The defensive formation in front of them has gone full-circle since 1990, when Bobby Robson finished the tournament using a successful sweeper system.

Graham Taylor abandoned this after an unhappy experience against the Republic of Ireland at Wembley, and for most of his games has reverted to the flat back four favoured by a majority of English clubs.

Then just recently, against France and Czechoslovakia, he decided to reintroduce the sweeper — a decision I totally support and one I hope he now perseveres with in the months ahead.

I believe it gives the side a much better balance and, by pushing his two full-backs into midfield, he has given England the width they were lacking beforehand.

IN the eight years that Bobby Robson had command of the England team there were many disappointments, not least the terrible performance in the 1988 European Championship. But Robson went out in glory by steering England to their best World Cup since 1966.

I had always liked Graham Taylor, for he talked very well and made sense. But now, while I am sure that he understands the game, I find myself opposed to his philosophy.

While I have been opposed to many England managers over the years. I find myself at odds with Taylor over his entire approach. Regardless of the quality of performances, it is now clear that winning is the only thing that counts with him.

There were times, under Ron Greenwood and Bobby Robson, when England played quality football and won. Good. In my view, England should be admired and respected across the world. England under Taylor are at best feared, because they are strong, and likely to beat most teams they meet.

There is a chance, if Taylor chooses the right squad, that England could do well in the European Championship. But if England should do well, I have doubts that they will play the kind of football that would be admired by a world-wide TV audience.

This is important, for as we saw in the recent African Championship, there were a lot of gifted players among the teams, many of whom play as professionals in Europe, but their defensive tactics ruined what could have been a festive occasion.

The Africans, together with all the other emerging football countries. look to Europe for a lead, and they are going to follow the tactics of the most successful countries in the European Championship.

Taylor clearly prefers midfielders such as Geoff Thomas of Crystal Palace, and Dennis Wise of Chelsea. Even Neil Webb, who was brought back for the game against France, is not, for me, an England player.

Some years ago, I remember Kevin Keegan telling me that his first 25 games for England were a great ordeal. He went on to become an outstanding England player, but only because the managers persevered with him.

Taylor has yet to show that he will persevere with any player, and so far has never chosen the same team for two consecutive matches. At club level, the players train and play together for months on end, and it is only by playing together for months on end, and it

England advance

When he selected four at the back he tended to protect them with three central midfielders who seemed to crowd each other out and leave a lop-sided gap on one of the flanks.

There was also the absence of any quality, creative passer in the middle, although injuries have not been kind in helping the selection.

Neil Webb has had his own injury and form mishaps but his return against France definitely enhanced the accuracy and variation previously missing.

A quality passer to pull the strings in the middle is also essential to get the best out of David Platt. His late, probing runs from deep often produce goalscoring chances, but when there is no one behind him capable of playing the necessary through-balls, his effectiveness will flounder too.

The right-back spot has been a nagging problem with Paul Parker not in his best position and Lee Dixon suffering a loss of confidence.

In the sweeper system Gary Charles and Trevor Steven are obvious alternatives but then Liverpool plucked Jones from the Fourth Division at Crewe.

Ever since his league debut at Old Trafford he has looked a class player and his composure and assured use of the ball puts him ahead of any other challenger.

His England debut against France was as good as any for many a season, and his potential is enormous.

A quick look at the central defensive trio shows Des Walker and Mark Wright almost automatic choices, with the main competition for the extra place.

Martin Keown and Paul Parker are good man-markers in contention, but there is a strong case for Gary Pallister as well, because his more controlled distribution would help improve the attacking play too.

The final pieces in Graham Taylor's jigsaw revolve around scoring goals, and this is the area where all managers have their biggest problem.

The artists who can mesmerise defenders with their dribbling skills are in short supply and so the England manager must hope Liverpool's John Barnes can regain full fitness and prove he can perform at his best on an international stage.

But there is still a lot of work to be done

Back in business . . . Webb's return boosted the England midfield.

The partner for Gary Lineker is still very open but Southampton's Alan Shearer has forced his way into the reckoning and is the main danger to Alan Smith.

Shearer is very similar to Lineker with his movement and instinctive finishing, while Smith is more of a target man who has obvious aerial advantages.

May and June will be an exciting period for Taylor and will be a valuable few weeks where he can get his strongest squad together for a good period of time.

Normally international managers become frustrated because they lose their players back to their clubs straight after midweek games during the season. But throughout major tournaments they can rediscover the feeling of club management and build up the spirit and understanding of day-to-day involvement.

Graham Taylor will feel the intense scrutiny of a massive media presence, and the regular demands of interviews from all sides.

I am confident he can handle this area comfortably as he always chooses his words carefully and is very perceptive at spotting "loaded" questions.

He is very much his own man and not afraid to switch players and tactics unexpectedly if required.

Following his appointment some people wondered about his early influence of the long ball style but he has gradually shown he can adapt his thinking to the different demands of international football and he must be relishing the exciting challenges facing him.

1990 illustrated that the whole of English football benefits when the national side performs well, and if he can find enough of those elusive goals, then 1992 could be just as exciting.

Taylor's tactics will not do

is only by playing together that any England players can develop the necessary understanding to enable them to play at their best.

So a pre-requisite for a good England team is that the players should be allowed to settle down together.

Taylor had to take England to the Republic of Ireland early in his spell as England manager. That was when I first became critical of his approach. A battling combination was clearly chosen to play the Irish at their own game. I believe that England should have gone to Dublin, and earned two European points by retaining possession and playing good football.

At Wembley, against Jack Charlton's team, England were fortunate and the Irish had the best chances.

So England bumbled through the qualifying matches, and so far in the Taylor plans there has been only one hiccup. This came after England were beaten at Wembley by Germany.

Until then the Taylor team had been unbeaten, and only losing made him have second thoughts about some of the players he had so quickly discarded after the last World Cup. Among others, Bryan Robson and Chris Waddle were brought back for the home game with Turkey, but the Turks surprised everyone by producing some excellent football at Wembley. In all respects except their weak goalkeeper, and their finishing, the Turks were excellent, and would have deserved victory.

Even then, England's stuttering qualification was thrown into jeopardy away to Poland in the last match.

Strength in plenty, but class is lacking

Impressive debut . . . Rob Jones (left) looked undaunted against the French at Wembley.

Looking at the way the game went, England were fortunate. With Poland leading 1-0, the referee missed a blatant foul when Chris Woods upended Jan Furtok. Had Poland been awarded a penalty, and scored, there would have been no way back for England.

Even in the game against France, I found myself at odds with Taylor when he relegated Gary Lineker to the bench, and used him only in the second half.

A wiser approach would have been to give the two strikers who started the match, Alan Shearer and David Hirst, one half each playing alongside Lineker. Shearer was much improved with Lineker's support, and by gradually easing in these two young strikers, they would each have learned a lot.

Rob Jones at right back was a revelation, undaunted by the precise midfield skill shown by the French. Young Jones took every opportunity to push up. With him at right-back, the England defence had a quality look. Des Walker produced his usual masterly performance, and Mark Wright was excellent, too.

Midfield is where England lacked quality. Paul Ince of Manchester United has been kept in the Under 21 and B teams too long. This, I feel, is because he is not the work-horse type that Taylor appears to like.

Taylor has indicated that when his contract is up after the 1994 World Cup he may return to League football. If he does, who else is there to make an admirable England manager?

The problem is that only by proving themselves in the First Division do men acquire the standing they need if they are to be appointed.

I have a different priority. The first quality of an England manager should be that he thinks like a top continental trainer.

The man who would do the right kind of job for England — seeking quality as well as results — is David Pleat of Luton.

I have always felt that England have a responsibility to the World game, to show how well the game can be played, make friends and influence people.

But even if England become European Champions in June, they will never, under Taylor, achieve the standard that I expect of them.

BY ERIC **BATTY**

The
KEIR RADNEDGE
COMMENTARY
Magazine Sports Writer of the Year

In agreement . . . the FIFA Football 2000 commission and WORLD SOCCER want to see the end of shoot-outs.

TEN COMMANDMENTS JOIN ATTACK ON PENALTY SHOOT-OUTS

WE ARE not alone in wanting to see the back of the detested penalty shoot-out.

WORLD SOCCER readers long ago voted 100-1 against the horribly unfair way of deciding cup clashes which remained deadlocked to the end of extra time.

Now FIFA's Football 2000 commission has come to the same conclusion.

And, like *WORLD SOCCER* and the huge majority of those readers who wrote to us following my campaign here last summer, the commission members would prefer to see sudden death in extra time. That is, the teams play to the first goal.

Football 2000 was set up on an ad hoc basis by FIFA in the wake of the technically depressing 1990 World Cup finals in Italy (personally, the more I look back, the more gloomy those finals become).

Heading the commission is Lennart Johansson, Swedish president of UEFA, the European confederation, and FIFA general secretary Sepp Blatter. Members include France manager Michel Platini, Danish referee Peter Mikkelsen, German World Cup-winning spearhead Rudi Voller, FA chief executive Graham Kelly, Barcelona president Jose Luis Nunez, Italia'90 boss Luca di Montezemolo, Italian journalist Sergio Di Cesare and Brazil sports medicine expert Lidio Toledo.

Report

After one year's deliberation the commission has come up with a report and ten recommendations as follows:

- Send off a player who tries to score with a deliberate handball
- Caution any player who tries — for example, with a raised arm — to influence a referee's decision
- Goalkeepers forbidden to handle time-wasting backpasses
- Scrap penalty shoot-outs at the end of drawn knock-out games and play, instead, to the "sudden death" first goal in extra time
- Caution any defending player who, after the referee has blown his whistle for a foul, plays the ball with hand or foot, delaying the free kick
- Place match balls around the pitch for instant return at dead ball situations, to save time-wasting chasing a ball into the crowd
- Abolish the indirect free kick, converting all free kicks into direct ones
- Chose two substitutes from among all the players on the bench and not merely five nominated substitutes
- Use an ice-hockey-style sin bin to punish certain serious fouls
- Award a penalty for a violent foul, whether the offence took place inside the penalty box.

Plenty of food for thought and discussion there, with one or two obvious holes. For example, since time-wasting and dissent attract plenty of interest, what a pity the commission ignores rugby's system of pushing a free kick forward nine metres to punish dissent.

Some of the other proposals — such as penalising time-wasting backpasses and awarding a penalty for violent conduct anywhere on the pitch — appear impossibly subjective. But wiping away the increasingly confusing indirect free kick will gain a lot of support. As for using a surreptitious hand to score, would Maradona have claimed his all-important first goal against England at the Mexico World Cup in 1986 if he knew he risked expulsion?

The work of the committee was compromised by some voluble independent proposals. Most notorious was the one emanating from FIFA president Joao Havelange, suggesting that games might be split into four quarters for the benefit of TV commercialism at the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States.

Recommend

Similarly, committee members examined various other proposals and ideas without feeling able to recommend their use. One such proposal was the possible use of video replays to assist referees over particularly contentious incidents in major events.

Platini certainly considered the idea. Indeed, he possesses ideal evidence in support of bringing such a measure to bear in World Cups and continental championships. Such a system would have brought France a goal in their recent B match against England at Loftus Road, London.

England won 3-0 but the outcome might have been different if Norwegian referee Pedersen had not waved aside French claims when a shot from Francois Calderaro struck the bar, flew down into the net, struck a stanchion and bounced out. A television camera up in the corner of the net proved conclusively that the ball had fallen well over the goal-line. France should have been back in the match.

Calls for televisual aid at the World Cup are not new. Michel, the Real Madrid and Spain midfielder, once told me: "The World Cup is too important for the referee to be on his own. For the sake of fairness to the players, to the teams — and to the officials themselves — there should be some way mistakes can be rectified straightaway by use of television slow-motion replays."

Michel does have an axe to grind. In the 1986 finals he was denied a goal against Brazil when his fierce drive from outside the penalty box ricocheted behind the goal-line before being cleared.

Australian referee Chris Bambridge insisted the ball had not crossed the line but few observers agreed with him — particularly after watching the incident on film.

What happens next to the work of Football 2000?

Ominously, their report disappears for perusal within the corridors of power.

First FIFA's refereeing commission take a look then, presumably on their recommendation, the executive committee must decide on those items which — if any — should be submitted to the law-making International Board.

The prospect of any of these suggestions reaching the statute book in time for the 1994 World Cup finals are remote, to say the least.

FIFA has already stated that the increasingly-derided penalty shoot-out will again be in evidence in the US.

In doubt . . . Maradona's "hand of God" goal might never have been.

MONACO: ITALIAN JOB OR FRENCH CONNECTION

AT A TIME when borders are going up and down all over Europe, Monaco are wondering if France — in football terms — is really where they want to be. Might they not be better off in Italy?

President Jean-Louis Campora is among club officials occasionally frustrated by the meagre level of support. Monaco last season averaged only 4,313 at home matches, despite finishing league runners-up and winning the French cup for the fifth time.

The new Stade Louis II has a capacity of 20,000 (12,000 seated) but only the visits of Marseille and European competitive occasions come anywhere near filling it.

One solution secretly floated last autumn was that Monaco should resign from the French championship and join the Italian League instead.

Coach Arsene Wenger reacted cautiously, saying: "The challenge of playing Milan, Juventus, Inter and the rest would be wonderful. It would certainly draw far more fans than our matches in the French championship.

"But would the Italians have us? How far down their League would we have to start? If it were Serie B (Second Division) it might be worth considering. But Serie C1 (part-time regionalised Third Division) would be out of the question."

Wenger . . . cautious.

Veteran goalkeeper Jean-Luc Ettori is not holding his breath. He says: "I'm not convinced changing championships would be in our best interests. As we are we can qualify for European competition most seasons. But the Italian League is much harder than the French. Qualifying for Europe would be nothing like as easy — and it would be much harder competing for top players, as well.

"We're better off staying where we are."

A marriage of convenience

Mostovoi . . . signed two contracts.

WHEN Russian midfielder Alexander Mostovoi transferred from Moscow Spartak to Portuguese champions Benfica last month he had to sign two contracts: a football contract and a marriage contract.

Mostovoi had become the latest player to take advantage of a Portuguese legal loophole which makes a mockery of domestic and international player eligibility regulations.

Portuguese clubs are permitted up to six foreign players. However, this does not include Brazilians, because of dual nationality treaties between the two countries. Nor does it include foreigners who have gained citizenship automatically through marriage to Portuguese citizens.

Over the years Portuguese clubs have seized on these legal loopholes to make a nonsense of attempts by their own federation to protect Portugal's domestic and national team interests by restricting the number of foreigners per club.

Benfica began negotiations at the end of last year to add Mostovoi to a six-strong imports enclave which included Mostovoi's former Spartak team-mate, sweeper Vasili Kulkov, and another CIS/Soviet international in striker Sergei Yuran.

Mostovoi, 23, first entered the Soviet international scene in the last Olympic qualifiers then made his senior debut before the 1990 World Cup finals against the Irish Republic in Dublin. Recurring injury problems cost him the chance of a place at Italia'90.

He has played a dozen times for the CIS/Soviets but national manager Anatoli Bishovets believes his record does not do justice to his talent. Nor do Benfica — which is why they were so keen to grab him before the Italian, German and Spanish agents woke up.

After the transfer negotiations had been concluded Mostovoi flew to Lisbon. There, on March 12, he married a Russian girl — but one with a difference. She was a Portuguese citizen, having met and married a Portuguese man in Leningrad some years earlier.

Rights

Mostovoi has ignored all inquiries as to the name of his new wife but Portuguese legal sources confirm that, even though she and her first husband divorced, she retained her Portuguese citizenship rights — from which Mostovoi now benefits.

Mostovoi is not the only one of Benfica's players to benefit from legal loopholes.

Against Arsenal at Highbury, earlier this season in the Champions' Cup, Benfica fielded five foreigners even though the UEFA-permitted maximum is four. The five were Kulkov and Yuran (then Soviet Union), Jonas Thern and Stefan Schwarz (Sweden) and Brazilian-born midfielder Isaias.

Isaias slipped through the net because, though born in Brazil, he had not played international football for the country of his birth and had then become Portuguese the same way as Mostovoi, through marriage.

Marriage games are nothing new to international soccer. When Bernd Schuster first joined Barcelona in 1980 it was suggested to him that, since he was unmarried, it would be of use to the club (considering citizenship rules then in force) if he married a local girl and became "Spanish."

Schuster had to explain that, although he and girlfriend Gaby were not formally married, neither were they interested in marrying anyone else!

Moller's driving ambition?

TOP footballers now earn so much that the trappings of fame are more important than a few extra lire or pesetas. And no perk speaks more effectively than an exclusive car.

But just how exclusive does that car have to be? Consider the case of German midfielder Andy Moller:

Moller has been ducking and diving for most of the past year over a transfer to Italy. At first the Eintracht Frankfurt schemer was delighted at finding himself top of Juventus' shopping list. He was not so happy when Juventus turned defenders Jurgen Kohler and Stefan Reuter into their priority signings from Germany and sold off "his" transfer option to Atalanta.

Refused

At first Moller refused to consider the idea of moving to provincial Bergamo rather than sophisticated Turin. Then he changed his mind and decided that, after marrying girlfriend Michaela Winter later this month, he would move south after the European championship finals in Sweden.

Three days after announcing his decision, Moller changed his mind. The case went to a FIFA "court" which ruled that Juventus were entitled to take up their option but that Atalanta had no rights in the matter.

What did Moller turn down? Atalanta's offer was: £1million-a-year to reach a European club competition, the team captaincy, a town-centre clothes boutique for Michaela, and . . . a brand-new Maserati.

Moller . . . ducking and diving.

Italian clubs are renowned for their general perks. Free housing, pay net of tax and an agreed number of return air fares home — extremely valuable to the South American beneficiaries such as Napoli's Brazilian striker Careca — are accepted clauses in contracts.

Moller displayed a tougher negotiating mind than Paulo Futre. Back in 1987, it was the promise of a customised yellow Porsche which finally persuaded the Portuguese forward to quit FC Porto and sign up for controversial Jesus Gil at Atletico Madrid.

Diego Maradona was another sucker for cars. The gift of a rare new Ferrari (he already owned an earlier model) sweetened the moment he signed his last, doomed, contract with Napoli.

Moller, hopefully, will "drive" more sensibly.

Koloskov's race against time

VIACHESLAV KOLOSKOV and his fellow embattled football officials of the CIS may have discovered a formula to save the international game from embarrassment.

Some sort of satisfactory arrangement is essential before UEFA's April 1 deadline for confirmation that the CIS will go to Sweden.

Attempts to launch a CIS championship, in succession to the old Soviet Supreme League, appeared to fall through in January when five top Russian clubs pulled out. They objected to high travel costs and insufficient security in the far corners of the old empire.

Simultaneously Minsk Dynamo announced their intention of joining a Byelorussian championship, following the breakaways already instigated by Georgia and, at the end of last year, Ukraine.

Koloskov, president of the CIS federation and a FIFA vice-president, says: "It is important we have a CIS League to help maintain our national team's place at the finals of the European Championship. The players who took us to Sweden deserve that."

Now Koloskov has come up with an interim solution. His proposal is that the champions of the various republics should meet in a play-off tournament next autumn. The champion club then enters the next European Champions' Cup.

A further proposal to try to resolve international confusion over CIS fragmentation has come from national manager Anatoli Bishovets. He says: "All these small republics will not have the ability to compete independently at international level. For World Cups and European Championships we should have our own qualifying event: the winners go through to represent the CIS."

In a huff . . . Renato says the Botafogo bonuses are too small.

Paulo sacked twice in one day

BY BRIAN **HOMEWOOD** IN RIO

S. America

ERNESTO PAULO learned all about the harsh realities of Brazilian football management when he was sacked from two jobs . . . on the same day.

Paulo was dismissed as Brazil's Olympic team manager after his side were knocked out in the first round of the South American qualifying competition in Paraguay. A few hours later the poor man was kicked out of his job as Botafogo's manager, to be replaced by Gil, his assistant.

Gil had taken on Botafogo on a caretaker basis while Paulo was away on his ill-fated expedition to Asuncion. Unfortunately for Paulo, Gil lead the club to the top of the championship table, prompting president Emil Pinheiro to give him the job permanently. In Brazil this usually means for the next three to six months.

Brazil's elimination from the "pre-Olimpico" was yet another fiasco, to follow their World Cup debacle and the dismal days of the Falcao era.

Yet they could have reached the final stage of the tournament simply by winning their last match against Venezuela, a word which is football parlance for shooting practice.

But on a rain-sodden pitch, with one of the tournament's mysterious floodlight failures during the first half, Brazil could manage only a 1-1 draw, having suffered the embarrassment of falling behind.

Portuguesa midfielder Dener was dropped for this match, and was reported as saying: "What about the agents who have come to watch me?"

Palmeiras defender Andrei was accused of chatting up girls at the team's hotel, criticising Paulo and not taking training sessions seriously. All this after Sao Paulo's Macedo had walked out on the squad before they even left Brazil.

Then there was the traditionally ridiculous preparation, courtesy of CBF president Ricardo Teixeira. Barely had the team had a training session than they were sent to play three friendlies in distant venues, to raise funds for the CBF.

As for Botafogo, the Gil success story quickly blew up as the players began arguing, with Renato Portaluppi again at the centre of things.

Renato, returning after three months at Gremio, upset his colleagues when he left the pitch in a huff after being substituted during a 4-2 home defeat by Corinthians. He said the bonuses were too small and that players were playing "for free."

Midfielder Carlos Alberto Dias stormed out of a training session in disgust after being asked to play in a deeper role than he was used to. As a result, Botafogo, leaders early on, quickly began slipping down the table.

By the time Botafogo had lost to Corinthians at least half the team were demanding Paulo's return.

Then the championship broke for carnival, Vasco da Gama, with Bebeto at last producing his best form, led with ten points out of a possible 12, recording a 4-1 win over Corinthians and a 4-0 defeat of Atletico Mineiro, both away.

Cruzeiro were one point behind in second place, having ended Flamengo's unbeaten run, which stretched back to last October. Charles and Paulo Roberto scored the goals as Cruzeiro won 2-1.

Despite the defeat, Flamengo were in third place with Junior, in midfield, in majestic form and on the brink of being recalled to the national team at the age of 37.

Defending champions Sao Paulo began well but slipped to consecutive defeats to Flamengo and bottom club Guarani, to the fury of manager Tele Santana.

Against Guarani, Sao Paulo attacked and attacked for 90 minutes, only to concede a goal direct from a corner in the second minute of injury time. "What's the point of attacking if we can't score?" fumed Santana. Guarani had lost their five previous games.

Sport Recife were the only major surprise, unbeaten after six games. Four of them were goal-less.

Corinthians recovered from their disastrous opening match, when they lost 4-1 at home to Vasco. But Neto does not seem to have learned anything from his four-month ban last year, imposed for spitting at a referee. After five matches on his return he was suspended again, this time for one, having received three yellow cards.

The championship began with Ricardo Teixeira on a skiing holiday and the other directors keeping a surprisingly low profile. Even Vasco's Eurico Miranda, the local answer to Jesus Gil, was keeping his mouth shut.

The referees on the other hand were making headlines for all the wrong reasons.

The most bizarre incident involved Luis Carlos de Abreu, who showed two yellow cards to the same player during the same match.

Gerson of Internacional was booked for a foul against Palmeiras, and received his second yellow — which should have been red — for ungentlemanly conduct, after scoring and overdoing the celebrations.

Palmeiras players protested but to no avail and to confuse things even more, Gerson went on to score again in the last minute as Internacional won 4-1. No action has yet been taken against Abreu.

Meanwhile, Manuel Serapiano Junior was "put in the fridge" (the local expression when a referee is suspended) for five games after the Portuguesa-Fluminense match.

LOOKING GOOD FOR THE GAMES

BY KEITH **SMITH**

THE second-place finish in the South American qualifiers for this year's Olympics was enough to ensure participation in Barcelona, a result that left Colombians feeling well satisfied.

The side did far better than expected, given their well-earned reputation as indifferent travellers and some shaky warm-up displays. The big surprise was the quality of victories over two of the favoured teams, Brazil and Uruguay. Equally surprising was that the Colombians had the best forward pairing on view, Ivan Rene Valenciano and Faustino Asprilla.

Valenciano, fresh from a 30-goal League season with Junior Barranquilla, netted five, and Asprilla scored three, although they had not played together before.

The whole side did a good job picking up coach Hernan Dario Gomez's system in a very short time. Gomez coached Colombian champions Nacional to the title last December.

If good things happen in threes, then Nacional will be clearing a space in their trophy cabinet for the 1992 Libertadores Cup. In this year's version of South America's premier club competition, both Colombian entrants, Nacional and America Cali, play at home after the lifting of FIFA's ban on games in Colombia, imposed after incidents before the Nacional-Vasco Da Gama Cup-tie in August 1990.

There is a genuine belief in both cities that they can win the trophy. Nacional have not lost at home to foreign opposition in the competition since 1975, and America only once since 1970.

The domestic season started anew on February 23.

Lively Colombia going to Spain

Despite a break of two months, there were plenty of coaching changes, to the extent that not one coach has survived continuously since November 1989.

One of the new appointments took place at Medellin, where Julio Comesana was re-appointed to succeed Jaime Rodriguez. Comesana had earlier left Junior Barranquilla, who in turn re-appointed an old face, Miguel Angel Lopez.

Junior also have been busy on the player front. One definite signing is that of veteran forward Arnoldo Iguaran from Millonarios. Iguaran, 35, is Colombia's all-time leading international scorer. Leonel Alvarez also was due to sign, but sat out Junior's opening game due to a question of finance between his former clubs, Valladolid and Nacional.

Alvarez further complicated matters a few days later by saying on a television news programme that he would rather sign for America Cali.

New boys Envigado snapped up veteran Peruvian midfielder Julio Cesar Uribe, now 33, and drew their first game in the big time, at home to Sporting Cartagena.

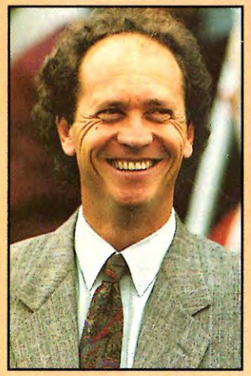
Millonarios of Bogota signed three foreigners, two from Argentina and the other from Uruguay.

Ariel Russo and Jorge Manuel Diaz came from Rosario Central and Racing Club respectively, while Peter Mendez, who played in the 1991 Copa America for Uruguay, came from struggling Spanish club Real Mallorca.

The three could not save Millos from a 7-3 beating in the season's opener, against Santa Fe in the 180th Bogota derby.

In form . . . Valenciano scored five in the pre-Olympico.

FALCAO NEEDS MORE STRENGTH



In charge . . . Falcao.

AMERICA, generally thought to be Mexico's best club side in the 1980s, are now in a period of reorganisation under manager Paulo Roberto Falcao, the legendary Brazilian midfielder.

Falcao had gone to work with Olimpia of Paraguay after leaving his job as Brazilian national coach — where he received little support. Then he had an offer from Mexico.

"I don't have to prove myself to anyone in Brazil," he says. "I left the basis for a great team, one who can win the World Cup in 1994."

Falcao, however, cannot be so happy about the situation with America, where injuries and loss of form have combined to remove the club from their usual position of eminence.

Last November they won the Inter-American Cup, contested by the winners of the CONCACAF and Libertadores events, with a 3-2 aggregate victory . . . over Olimpia. But Falcao got off to a bad start, with 3-1 and 5-1 defeats by Atlanta and Necaxa respectively.

He will need all the experience he gained as a player and coach, and some new players too, if he is to put America back on top.

With 12 games to go before the title play-offs, between the top two in each of four groups, they had 28 points, eight fewer than Atlanta.

The five top clubs in Mexico City — Atlanta, Cruz Azul, UNAM and Necaxa as well as America — have been given a warning by medical officials. A recent report says that air pollution is reducing players' efficiency by at least 10 per cent, and producing respiratory problems.

The doctors advise players not to train between 7am and 6pm, in order to avoid the foul air.

● Former Argentine international midfielder Miguel Angel Brindisi has been appointed Guatemala national coach. His contract, reputedly 250,000 dollars down and 5,000 a month, is being paid by the government on the orders of President Serrano, who is determined that Guatemala go ahead with World Cup preparations.

EDUARDO **MACHUCO**

Olympics: Doubts over vital results

BY ERIC **WEIL**

SOUTH AMERICA'S representatives in this year's Olympic Games soccer tournament are Paraguay and Colombia and the rest of the world cannot be blamed for asking: What happened?

Argentina, the current South American champions, were considered favourites to take one of the qualifying places in the tournament in Asuncion, especially as their team of under-23s (the maximum age for Olympic tournaments) included five full internationals and other experienced First Division players.

Despite having some of the best players on view, they failed to hit it off as a group, and failed to qualify for the final round.

Ecuador, applauded for their play under Yugoslav coach Dusan Drascovic, won the group and Argentina had to draw with Uruguay to clinch the other final-round place, but lost 2-1.

Shades of the 1978 World Cup threw their ugly shadow over the tournament in the other preliminary group. In 1978, the suspicious 6-0 victory by Argentina over Peru put the hosts into the semi-finals, ahead of Brazil on goal difference. This time hosts Paraguay beat Peru 7-1 under suspicious circumstances.

Two of the goals came from penalties, four Peruvians were sent off, and Paraguay eventually qualified for the final round on goal difference over Brazil.

But Brazil still had themselves to blame. In the last group match they needed a one-goal win against weak and pointless Venezuela to make the finals, and were held 1-1 in the upset of the tournament. Yet even here there were some doubts.

Brazil's possible winner 20 minutes from the end was annulled for what did not look like offside, and when a Brazilian protested meekly he was sent off. There was no investigation into either match, and Brazil did not lodge any protest.

Enthusiasm

So we had a strange-looking final round, with Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay and Paraguay.

The Paraguayans had improved a lot in the final round, but even so their football was rudimentary and lacked technique. They won with strength and enthusiasm, mostly the latter, and home support had a lot to do with their success.

So they qualified for the Olympics for the first time, but do not look like candidates although their Uruguayan coach, Sergio Markarian, says he only had a month to prepare the team and can improve matters greatly.

Apart from the seven goals against Peru, Paraguay scored only one other in the three remaining group games, and won the final round with a 2-0 record in three matches.

Even the Paraguayans admitted that Colombia were the best team in the tournament. They lined up mostly experienced League players and played good soccer which lacked bite.

They should have qualified more easily than on goal difference over Uruguay — depending on a 1-1 last-match draw with Ecuador.

The Colombian top scorer (with five goals), Ivan Valenciano, only 19 and already chased by European clubs, is known as Ivan the terrible or "Nino Divino" (Divine Child) because he goes on the field with a picture of his favourite Colombian saint tucked in each of his socks.

Faustino "Salsita" Asprilla, his partner in a double-thronged attack, derives his nickname from the fact that he is a great fan of Salsa music.

Celso Ayala (stripes) of Paraguay clashes with Elber of Brazil.

LIBERTADORES CUP

NEWCOMERS JOIN THE CHASE

THIS YEAR'S Libertadores Cup, for South American club champions, is getting under way with the defending champions, Colo Colo of Chile, playing from the first round, instead of having a bye, for financial reasons.

Only two other winners — Nacional of Uruguay and Atletico Nacional of Colombia — are in the line-up.

There are four newcomers: Criciuma, the Brazilian Cup winners, San Jose and Coquimbo Unido, vice-champions of Bolivia and Chile respectively, and Ecuadorian vice-champions Valdez.

The South American Confederation are organising another tournament as from this year — the CONMEBOL Cup, to copy the UEFA Cup — for teams not taking part in the Libertadores Cup.

Four clubs from Brazil, three from Argentina, two from Uruguay and one each from the seven others are to play between August 5 and September 23.

ROLY CATCHES THEM YOUNG AND TRAINS THEM RIGHT

TAHUICHI is a word from the Indian Guarani dialect meaning Big Bird . . . but to the soccer world it means a fine youth team — actually several teams — from a country, Bolivia, not known for prowess at soccer.

The man who started it all, engineer Rolando "Roly" Aguilera, says: "My father was a soccer player and so was I — during 14 years with Blooming, one of Bolivia's leading professional teams — but for private reasons I had to leave my country and live in the US for some years.

"I missed soccer and so did my sons, and when we returned we played in our back garden. Soon nephews and neighbours appeared to join in and my house proved too small — apart from the damage caused!

"One day I formed two teams, called them Oriente Petrolero and Blooming after two League clubs, and trained them. The idea was to get them to play a preliminary game before one of the big League matches. It was really gratifying to see how well they played and how enthusiastic the spectators became.

"After this game, so many parents turned up wanting to have their sons included in our group that I got the idea of forming a soccer school and naming it after my father, Ramon 'Tahuichi' Aguilera. Soon it became famous as the Academia Tahuichi."

The ever-growing academy also taught children other things apart from soccer and

Rolando Aguilera.

became of important social benefit in its home town, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, by helping to keep boys off the street.

Success came by chance and was not really expected, according to Aguilera. In 36 international youth tournaments since 1980, all over the world, Tahuichi teams have won 29 titles.

Sponsors were found to fund the academy, which knew no borders — although this almost closed it down.

When matches were played in the Soviet Union and Cuba, several sponsors withdrew their support and there was talk of Tahuichi's not being able to carry on, but luckily these problems were overcome.

Aguilera comments: "Future soccer stars are to be found in the poorer districts. Ours is an under-developed country, which means that a high percentage of our children are undernourished.

"Future athletes have to be healthy, otherwise they will not be able to put up with the demands imposed on them in top competition, so we also provide them with medical and other care at the academy.

"Importance is given to technical, tactical and psycho-logical training but until 14 years of age the boys are left to play as they want. All we do is develop their natural talents.

Evident

The Tahuichi Academy is devoted to the development of the child as a whole. Evident proof of this is that a large number of the boys — owing to their proficiency in soccer and love of studies — have won scholarships abroad, 15 in the United States, and are close to finishing university.

There is a cultural-sporting exchange with Finland and Sweden and there are several "Tahuichis" playing in Europe.

"Our players exert a leading influence wherever they go on account of their character and responsibility, and they have had a lot to do with changing the general opinion of the Bolivian players," says Aguilera.

The teams are Chipiridingui (3-5), Chinchuriros (6-7), Pimpinnes (9-10), Pirindolas (11-12), Mini-Cracks (13-14), Pre-juveniles (15-16) and Juveniles (17-19).

The Academia works on a monthly budget of 10,500 dollars, contributed largely by local and foreign sponsors.

ERIC **WEIL**

TITLES

1980: South American Champions
1981: Little world club championship
1983: Invicta tournament in US
1984, 85, 88, 90: Gothia Cup
1987, 88, 89, 90: Dallas Cup
1988, 89, 90: Invicta tournament in USSR & Cuba
1990: Dana Cup (in Denmark)
1980: Sun Bowl (in US)
1982: Mundialet (in Spain)
1984: International tournament (Spain)
1989: International tournament (England)
1990: Holland Cup
1981: Panamerican championship
1983: Latinamerican championship
1986: South American U-17 championship
1988, 89: Helsinki Cup
1989: Hatters Cup (in England)
1990: Reading Cup (in England)

BRAZIL

NATIONAL and State champions Sao Paulo are favoured to become the first team in the Brazilian championship's 22-year history to win the title for the third time.

They play good, technical soccer under coach Tele Santana — a man who hates the rough play so dominant in many other Brazilian teams — and have current internationals Elivelton and Rai and former international Muller on their books.

Sao Paulo were a point behind leaders Vasco da Gama after four games.

The 20-club national First Division has seven Sao Paulo State teams this season and four from Rio de Janeiro.

The top eight qualify for the semi-final stage after the teams have played each other once. The bottom two are relegated.

Arrangement

Vasco da Gama are happy to have striker Bebeto back in form. He celebrated his 28th birthday by scoring both goals in his team's 2-0 victory over Paysandu.

Palmeiras of Sao Paulo, who took over three points out of eight have signed a contract with an Italian firm, Parmalat, bringing in half a million dollars for advertising on shirts worn by all the club's teams.

The firm are now part owners of the club, and any future transfers of Palmeiras players will have to be discussed first as Italian club Parma, also connected with Parmalat, have priority. Any players Palmeiras sign from now on will be owned 50 per cent by Parmalat.

The company say they will be investing 40,000 dollars monthly in the club and will put in their own coach and financial manager. This is the only known arrangement of this kind with a Brazilian club, and results will be watched with interest.

ECUADOR

ECUADOR, who had last year's Under 17 World Championship taken away from them due to the cholera epidemic, will stage next year's South American Championship, from June 16 to July 4.

The South American Confederation, meeting in Asuncion before the Olympic qualifying tournament, also picked the next nine venues, as follows: 1995 Uruguay, 1997 Bolivia, 1999 Paraguay, 2001 Colombia, 2003 Peru, 2005 Venezuela, 2007 Argentina, 2009 Brazil, 2011 Chile.

The 1993 tournament was due to feature two guests from the North and Central American zone — US and Mexico — but the arrangement does not look like starting next year.

The dates set for the Copa America virtually clash with those of CONCACAF's Gold Cup nations championship, and South American teams, due to appear in the Gold Cup as guests, do not want to play in view of next year's World Cup qualifiers.

ARGENTINA

PLANS for a money-making championship finale could be ruined if River Plate win the second stage of the League competition.

They won the first, and are due to meet the winners of the second to decide the title.

The play-off is usually staged home and away, but there is a departure from the norm this time, with a match over THREE legs.

Unless, of course, River finish on top again. Then there won't even be one match, let alone three.

The second stage has begun again after the two-month break, which was dotted with numerous tournaments, mainly at beach resorts.

The two most important at Mar del Plata, were won by Boca Juniors, who beat River Plate both times and have now won seven and drawn one of the last eight meetings with their traditional rivals, in various competitions.

These tournaments contained a lot of rough play and injuries, and the FA and the players' union are trying to tone matters down.

Clubs can sign two players between the two stages of the championship, and the leading moves were: Fernando Caceres (Argentinos Juniors to River Plate); Uruguayan Jose Perdomo from Italians Genoa to Gimnasia y Esgrima; Ramon Hicks (Paraguayan) and Ever Moas (Uruguayan) from Danubio to Independiente; Carlos Torres and Sergio Vazquez from Olimpia of Paraguay to Racing Club.

Two veteran internationals have left Talleres Cordoba. Marcello Trobbiani retired and Miguel Luduena failed to agree terms.

The sports magazine *El Grafico's* annual check on players revealed that 316 Argentines were abroad at the start of 1992, in 28 countries.

There were 46 in Chile, 45 in Bolivia, and 23 in both Spain and Mexico. Just over half were in South America, with 94 in Europe and 11 in Australasia.

News in brief

● **URUGUAY champions Defensor Sporting also finished top of the six-team "Liguilla" from which the top two qualify for the Libertadores Cup.**

On the last day eternal rivals Nacional and Penarol drew 0-0 to stay joint second, and force a play-off. This ended 1-1 but Nacional won 6-5 on penalties to get a cup place.

● ***BOLIVIA'S** San Jose had three players suspended but beat Oriente Petrolero 1-0 in the play-off between the runners-up in the season's two championships, to earn a Libertadores Cup place.*

Bolivar had won both championships to go into the cup.

● **ORLANDO ARAVENA, the former Chilean national team coach banned for five years by FIFA following the fireworks incident during the Brazil v Chile World Cup qualifier in 1989 (Chile's goalkeeper, Roberto Rojas, was banned for life), seems to be back at work before his time is up.**

Chilean Second Division club Magallanes have employed Aravena on their administrative staff as "technical manager."

● ***SERGIO GOYCOCHEA**, the Argentine goalkeeper who became their World Cup hero in 1990, has not had too much luck since. His French club, Brest, went broke and it was some time before Spain's Sevilla signed him for next season.*

In the meantime, Goycochea has gone to Paraguayan club Cerro Porteno, on a six-month contract, and is living at one of Asuncion's top hotels.

ARGENTINA FIXTURES

29th MARCH
Boca Juniors v Platense
Quilmes v Argentinos Juniors
Union v San Lorenzo
Rosario Central v Talleres
Racing Club v Estudiantes
Gimnasia v Independiente
Belgrano v Newell's
Velez Sarsfield v River Plate
F.C. Oeste v Huracan
Espanol v Mandiyu

5th APRIL
Mandiyu v Boca Juniors
Huracan v Espanol
River Plate v F.C. Oeste
Newell's v Velez Sarsfield
Independiente v Belgrano
Estudiantes v Gimnasia
Talleres v Racing Club
San Lorenzo v Rosario Central
Argentinos Juniors v Union
Platense v Quilmes

12th APRIL
Boca Juniors v Quilmes
Union v Platense
Rosario Central v Argentinos
Racing Club v San Lorenzo
Gimnasia v Talleres
Belgrano v Estudiantes
Velez Sarsfield v Independiente
F.C. Oeste v Newell's
Espanol v River Plate
Mandiyu v Huracan

19th APRIL
Huracan v Boca Juniors
River Plate v Mandiyu
Newell's v Espanol
Independiente v F.C. Oeste
Estudiantes v Velez Sarsfield
Talleres v Belgrano
San Lorenzo v Gimnasia
Argentinos v Racing Club
Platense v Rosario
Quilmes v Union

26th APRIL
Boca Juniors v Union
Rosario v Quilmes
Racing v Platense
Gimnasia v Argentinos
Belgrano v San Lorenzo
Velez Sarsfield v Talleres
F.C. Oeste v Estudiantes
Espanol v Independiente
Mandiyu v Newell's
Huracan v River Plate

3rd MAY
River Plate v Boca Juniors
Newell's v Huracan
Independiente v Mandiyu
Estudiantes v Espanol
Talleres v F.C. Oeste
San Lorenzo v Velez Sarsfield
Argentinos Juniors v Belgrano
Platense v Gimnasia
Quilmes v Racing Club
Union v Rosario

10th MAY
Rosario v Boca Juniors
Racing Club v Union
Gimnasia v Quilmes
Belgrano v Platense
Velez Sarsfield v Argentinos Juniors
F.C. Oeste v San Lorenzo
Espanol v Talleres
Mandiyu v Estudiantes
Huracan v Independiente
River Plate v Newell's

17th MAY
Boca Juniors v Newell's
Independiente v River Plate
Estudiantes v Huracan
Talleres v Mandiyu
San Lorenzo v Espanol
Argentinos Juniors v F.C. Oeste
Platense v Velez Sarsfield
Quilmes v Belgrano
Union v Gimnasia
Rosario v Racing Club

24th MAY
Racing Club v Boca Juniors
Gimnasia v Rosario
Belgrano v Union
Velez Sarsfield v Quilmes
F.C. Oeste v Platense
Espanol v Argentinos Juniors
Mandiyu v San Lorenzo
Huracan v Talleres
River Plate v Estudiantes
Newell's v Independiente

31st MAY
Boca Juniors v Independiente
Estudiantes v Newell's
Talleres v River Plate
San Lorenzo v Huracan
Argentinos Juniors v Mandiyu
Platense v Espanol
Quilmes v F.C. Oeste
Union v Velez Sarsfield
Rosario v Belgrano
Racing Club v Gimnasia

7th JUNE
Gimnasia v Boca Juniors
Belgrano v Racing Club
Velez Sarsfield v Rosario
F.C. Oeste v Union
Espanol v Quilmes
Mandiyu v Platense
Huracan v Argentinos
River Plate v San Lorenzo
Newell's v Talleres
Independiente v Estudiantes

14th JUNE
Boca Juniors v Estudiantes
Talleres v Independiente
Sar Lorenzo v Newell's
Argentinos v River Plate
Platense v Huracan
Quilmes v Mandiyu
Union v Espanol
Rosario v F.C. Oeste
Racing Club v Velez Sarsfield
Gimnasia v Belgrano

21st JUNE
Belgrano v Boca Juniors
Velez Sarsfield v Gimnasia
F.C. Oeste v Racing Club
Espanol v Rosario
Mandiyu v Union
Huracan v Quilmes
River Plate v Platense
Newell's v Argentinos
Independiente v San Lorenzo
Estudiantes v Talleres

28th JUNE
Boca Juniors v Talleres
San Lorenzo v Estudiantes
Argentinos v Independiente
Platense v Newell's
Quilmes v River Plate
Union v Huracan
Rosario v Mandiyu
Racing Club v Espanol
Gimnasia v F.C. Oeste
Belgrano v Velez Sarsfield

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diary

World Soccer's news service conducted by **KEIR RADNEDGE**

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1

ACTION: In the South American Olympic qualifiers, Brazil beat Peru 2-1 . . . Australia beat Sweden 1-0 in Melbourne . . . the United States beat the CIS 2-1 in the Pontiac Silverdome . . . in France, Monaco are held 1-1 at home by Toulon, allowing Marseille to edge four points clear with a 2-0 win at Toulouse . . . Atletico Madrid slip further in Spain, only drawing 1-1 with Burgos.

ENGLAND: Leeds surprise everyone by signing Eric Cantona on loan, a day after he walked out on Yorkshire rivals Sheffield Wednesday.

GERMANY: Eduard Geyer, ex-manager of Dresden and East Germany, admits he too was a Stasi spy. The first ex-East German to "come out," Torsten Gutschow, considers a move to Spain with Gijon.

ITALY: Milan's Demetrio Albertini denies reports that he wanted to quit because of stress factors.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2

ACTION: In the South American Olympic qualifiers, Uruguay lose 2-1 to Ecuador while Argentina beat Bolivia 1-0 . . . Roberto Baggio scores a hat-trick in Italy as Juventus beat Foggia 4-1 . . . Real Madrid are held 1-1 at home to Cadiz in Leo Beenhakker's first match back in charge . . . Benfica win 3-1 away to Guimaraes to move within two points of Portuguese leaders FC Porto — who are held goalless by Torriense.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3

ACTION: In the South American Olympic qualifiers, Brazil beat Paraguay 1-0 and Colombia beat Peru 4-1.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW ?

MARIO COLUNA . . .

Benfica and Portugal's midfield general in the 1960s who is now Minister of Sport in his native Mozambique.

PLAYER OF THE MONTH:

STEPHANE CHAPUISAT . . .

14-goal op scorer with Borussia Dortmund for his outstanding contribution to his club's first serious German championship challenge in nearly 30 years.

RUSSIA: Five Moscow clubs — champions CSKA, Spartak, Torpedo, Dynamo and Lokomotiv — withdraw from the new CIS championship to play in a new Russian League. The clubs say they could not afford the travel or security costs. CIS federation president Viacheslav Koloskov says the CIS championship will go ahead, as planned, from March 22.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

ACTION: In the South American Olympic qualifiers, Uruguay beat Chile 1-0 and Argentina beat Ecuador 1-0.

ENGLAND: Liverpool buy Hungary midfielder Istvan Kozma for £300,000 from Dunfermline . . . Nottingham Forest give a trial to Denmark midfielder Peter Nielsen, from Lyngby . . . representatives of the FA, the League and the Premier League agree that, at the end of the 1994-95 season, the number of teams in the Premier Division shall be reduced from 22 to 20.

SWITZERLAND: UEFA takes control of all television and advertising rights for the semi-final round of the Champions' Cup from next season. The TEAM agency of Luzern will run the contracts which, UEFA hope, will earn around £30million next season.

UNITED STATES: World Cup organisers say the choice of venues for USA'94 will be announced on March 23 in New York.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5

ACTION: In the South American Olympic qualifiers, Colombia beat Brazil 2-0 with goals from Ivan Valenciano, and Peru beat Venezuela 3-0.

ENGLAND: Second division strugglers Newcastle United sack manager Osvaldo Ardiles and appoint ex-England captain and former Newcastle idol Kevin Keegan — who has been out of the game for eight years and has no management experience.

FRANCE: The federation bars Croatian winger Alen Boksic from playing on loan to Cannes because of irregularities over his original transfer last autumn from Hajduk Split to Marseille.

POLAND: Aleksander Klak, under-21 international goalkeeper of Pegrotour Debica, agrees to sign for Blackburn Rovers for £550,000 — after he has played at the Barcelona Olympic Games . . . Zbigniew Boniek is named Best Polish Player of All Time in a survey run by the weekly, Gol. Runner-up is Wlodek Lubanski with the late Kaziu Deyna third.

WALES: Alan Davies, Swansea and ex-Manchester United winger, is found dead in his car, aged 30.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

ACTION: In the South American Olympic qualifiers, Argentina and Chile draw 1-1 while Ecuador beat Bolivia 4-1.

BELGIUM: Waregem player Yvan Desloover is found guilty, by an appeal court, of involuntary wounding. A tackle in a league game inflicted a double leg fracture on Anderlecht captain Juan Lozano. He never played again. Desloover could face huge damages payments now the case is completed.

DENMARK: AGF Aarhus sign Norway defender Jan-Halvor Halvorsen from Germany's Hertha Berlin.

GERMANY: Matthias Sammer of Stuttgart and formerly East Germany, appeals for an end to the witch-hunt against those players forced into spying by the Stasi.

GREECE: Argyris Saliarelis, president of Olympiakos, is arrested on charges relating to the sale of Lajos Detari to Bologna.

HOLLAND: Groningen coach Hans Westerhof is appointed to succeed Bobby Robson as PSV coach after the season's end.

PORTUGAL: Benfica appeal against a £40,000 fine imposed by UEFA in the wake of a linesman having been struck by a missile during the Champions' Cup tie against Kiev Dynamo last December.

SPAIN: Real Madrid beat Valencia 2-1 in a Spanish Cup quarter-final first leg match.

UNITED STATES: Chuck Blazer, secretary of CONCACAF, says it may not be possible for two South American teams to accept invitations to this year's CONCACAF Gold Cup because of a mix-up over fixture dates.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA confirms that, so far, Cuba, Western Samoa and Sierra Leone have withdrawn from the 1994 World Cup.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

ACTION: Egypt beat Zimbabwe 3-0 in an African Olympic qualifier in Cairo . . . Nissan of Japan, thanks to a hat-trick from Brazilian striker Carlos Renato, beat Al Nasr of Saudi Arabia 5-0 in the second leg of the Asian Cup-winners' Cup Final. Nissan win 6-1 on aggregate.

BELGIUM: FC Liege appoint Eric Gerets, who retires from playing at the end of the current season with PSV Eindhoven, as coach for 1992-93.

ENGLAND: Bob Paisley, now 73, retires as Liverpool director because of ill health.

FRANCE: Eric Cantona, who has not played a competitive match since early December is named in France's squad to play England at Wembley.

WALES: Seven clubs currently playing in English-based competitions, lose their appeals against a WFA order that they shall play, in future, only in Welsh competitions — effectively, that is, in the new Welsh league. Merthyr are the only club given a temporary reprieve while they seek to attain English League status.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

ACTION: Eric Cantona makes his Leeds debut as a second-half substitute in a 2-0 defeat at Oldham . . . goals by Passi and Weah bring Monaco a 2-0 win over Saint-Etienne in France . . . Porto keep up the pace in Portugal, beating Maritimo 3-1 . . . a last-minute goal from Julio Salinas brings Spanish champions Barcelona a 1-0 win over Sevilla.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9

ACTION: In the South American Olympic play-offs, Colombia and Paraguay draw 0-0 while Brazil crash out after being surprisingly held 1-1 by Venezuela . . . Belgian champions Anderlecht lose 2-0 to Brugge, who move to within one point of the leaders and level with Mechelen and Standard Liege . . . Fluminense goalkeeper Jefferson saves two penalties within two minutes — but his club still lose 3-0 in a Brazilian championship tie . . . Nottingham Forest and Tottenham draw 1-1 in a Rumbelows League Cup semi-final first leg . . . Marseille stay three points clear in France despite being held 2-2 at home by Sochaux . . . Panathinaikos pull within one point of leaders AEK in Greece after beating them 2-0 with first-half goals from Saravakos . . . Ajax reach the quarter-finals of the Dutch Cup thanks to a 2-1 extra time win over PSV . . . Milan are held 1-1 at home by pursuers Juventus in Italy's Match-of-the-Season-so-Far. Bari and England have a scare when David Platt is helped off against Sampdoria with a badly-bruised ankle . . . Benfica beat Sporting 2-0 in the big Portuguese derby. Andrade and Pacheco score the goals . . . Real Madrid's lead in Spain is cut to two points as they lose 2-1 away to Valladolid.

MONDAY, FEBUARY 10

ENGLAND: Graham Taylor names a 30-strong squad of players for the senior and B internationals against France. Included for the first time is Liverpool right-back Rob Jones.

HOLLAND: Dick Advocaat turns down offers from PSV Eindhoven, Feyenoord and Real Madrid (where he would have been No 2 to Leo Beenhakker) to accept the post of Holland manager. He takes over from Rinus Michels after the European Championship and agrees to work as assistant to Johan Cruyff should Holland qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals.

SCOTLAND: Aberdeen dismiss manager Alex Smith and promote coach and former skipper Willie Miller in his place . . . Andy Roxburgh includes Aberdeen's 20-year-old Stephen Wright in the squad to face Northern Ireland.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

ACTION: In the South American Olympic qualifiers, Uruguay beat rivals Argentina 2-1.

ITALY: In an Italian Cup quarter-final first leg match Milan beat Torino 2-0.

SCOTLAND: Rangers sign a kit deal with adidas which could be worth £15million over five years.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

ACTION: Portugal beat Holland 2-0 in Faro; Turkey are held 1-1 by Finland in Adana; Costa Rica and the US draw 0-0 in San Jose . . . in the South American Olympic qualifiers, Paraguay beat Ecuador 1-0 and Colombia beat Uruguay 3-0 . . . in a B international, the Irish Republic beat Denmark 2-0.

ITALY: Italian Cup quarter-final first leg results include a 1-0 home win for Juventus against Inter.

SOUTH AFRICA: Abdul Bhamjee, former manager of the National Soccer League, is sentenced to 14 years in jail after being convicted on 33 charges of fraud relating to sponsorship money.

SPAIN: Mallorca beat Logrones 2-1 in a rearranged game which was abandoned earlier in the year because of rain.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 13

ACTION: The touring US Olympic side beat Polish champions Zaglebie 6-1 in a friendly in Evoine, France.

ENGLAND: Glenn Hoddle, the Swindon player-manager, is appointed to manage an England Second Division XI against the Italian Serie B in Caserta . . . struggling Third Division Torquay United offer ex-Yugoslav international full-back Ivan Golac the job of caretaker manager to the end of the season.

SPAIN: Emilio Butragueno dismisses talk of a crisis at Real Madrid. He says: "The solution is winning. Everything will be resolved after we win two or three games in a row."

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

FRANCE: Title pursuers Monaco win 1-0 at Nimes.

HOLLAND: PSV boss Bobby Robson undergoes stomach surgery in hospital in Eindhoven. A club spokesman reports: "Doctors say the operation was a complete success."

ROMANIA: Mircea Radulescu quits as national manager, blaming lack of cooperation from leading clubs.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

ACTION: Marseille's lead over Monaco in France evaporates to one point as the champions lose 2-1 away to Lens . . . Bayern Munich's struggle goes on as they lose 2-1 at home to Dresden in Germany . . . in Holland, 18-year-old Peter Hoekstra scores twice for PSV in their 4-0 defeat of Venlo . . . Ronald Koeman scores twice as Spanish champions Barcelona win 4-0 away to Zaragoza.

BELGIUM: Antwerp crash 8-2 at home to Ekeren, Guido Hofmans scoring five goals. During the match a handful of fans walk onto the pitch, holding up the game, to demand their entrance money back. In other high-scoring matches, Standard beat Waregem 6-3 and Ghent beat Beveren 4-0.

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 16

ACTION: Paraguay and Colombia, against all the odds, qualify from South America for the Olympic finals in Barcelona. On the final day of competition, Paraguay draw 0-0 with Uruguay while Colombia draw 1-1 with Ecuador . . . in Brazil's national championship, Vasco da Gama go top by defeating Paysandu 2-0. Bebeto scores both goals . . . Panathinaikos maintain the pressure on leaders AEK in Greece. Panathinaikos win 1-0 away to Aris thanks to their two Poles. Krzystof Warzycha scores the winner while keeper Jozsef Wandzik makes a string of brilliant saves . . . Feyenoord crush Vitesse 5-0, with a Jozsef Kiprich hat-trick, to stay level on points with leaders PSV . . . Italian League pursuers Juventus owe their 2-1 win over Atalanta to Roberto Baggio: he makes one goal for Toto Schillaci and scores the other . . . Real Madrid turn in their best win since coach Beenhakker's return as they beat Bilbao 5-0. Gica Hagi scores a hat-trick . . . Turkish champions Besiktas maintain their unbeaten League record thanks to a 3-1 home win over Altay Izmir.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

POLAND: Lech Poznan's Michael Gebura and Legia's Leszek Pisz return home after an unsuccessful trial with Second Division Portsmouth.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA and UEFA issue statements attempting to calm speculation over the European Championship presence of the CIS.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

ACTION: England beat France 3-0 in a B international at Loftus Road, London . . . Scotland beat Denmark 3-0 in an under-21 friendly in Edinburgh.

FRANCE: Injured Franck Sauzee pulls out of the squad to play England in a senior international tomorrow at Wembley.

GERMANY: Bayern coach Soren Lerby drops sweeper Thomas Berthold after the 2-1 home defeat by Dresden . . . the national squad undergoes a string of physical examinations as a part of preparation for the European Championships.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

ACTION: International friendly games see El Salvador beat the US 2-0; England beat France 2-0, ending a three-year unbeaten run; San Marino lose 4-0 to Italy; Wales win 1-0 in the Irish Republic; Scotland beat Northern Ireland 1-0; Spain draw 1-1 with CIS.

BRAZIL: National manager Carlos Alberto Parreira names a squad of 22 for the forthcoming friendly against the US.

ENGLAND: Second division Millwall sign up US national team keeper Kasey Keller . . . Aston Villa sign Australia goalkeeper Mark Bosnich, who was with Manchester United last season before his work permit application was rejected.

PORTUGAL: Benfica reach the quarter-finals of the Cup by beating Famalicao 1-0 with an extra-time goal from Jonas Thern.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

BELGIUM: Anderlecht goalkeeper Filip Dewilde is ruled doubtful for the Champions' Cup tie with Sampdoria after injuring a shoulder in a midweek friendly against another Italian club, Parma.

ENGLAND: The FA's ruling council signals its go-ahead for the Premier League.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich win 5-0 away to Bochum with a hat-trick from Roland Wohlfarth.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

ENGLAND: Paul Gascoigne takes part in his first match exercise since his knee operation last summer — playing in a five-a-side.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

ACTION: Belgian Second Division leaders Lommel surprise Antwerp, beating them 1-0 in a Cup quarter-final first leg match . . . Marseille beat old rivals Bordeaux (now of the Second Division) by 1-0 in a French Cup game . . . German League leaders Borussia Dortmund slip by drawing 1-1 at bottom club Dusseldorf; but pursuers Frankfurt and Kaiserslautern also share a 1-1 draw . . . Real Madrid lose a Spanish League game 1-0 at Sevilla.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 23

ACTION: Sweeper Franco Baresi plays his 500th match for Milan in the goalless draw away to Genoa . . . Spanish champions Barcelona are surprisingly held 1-1 at home by Gijon and thus remain one point behind Real Madrid.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 24

HOLLAND: The KNVB announce a friendly against Wales in Amsterdam on May 30.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

SPAIN: Valencia are held 0-0 at home by Real Madrid in a Cup quarter-final second leg. Madrid qualify for the semi-final thanks to a 2-1 aggregate.

SWITZERLAND: FIFA grants provisional membership rights to the newly-applying federations of Croatia, Slovenia, Georgia and Ukraine. In another statement, FIFA says it considers the CIS the "legal" successor to the former Soviet federation.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

ACTION: Tunisia beat Belgium 2-1; Brazil beat the US 3-0 . . . in the South American Club Cup, San Lorenzo crash 6-0 at home to their fellow Argentines of Newell's Old Boys. Newell's Alberto Acosta scores a hat-trick . . . Juventus, Sampdoria and Milan all reach the semi-finals of the Italian Cup . . . Atletico Madrid, La Coruna and Gijon secured their places in the semi-finals of the Spanish Cup.

ARGENTINA: Diego Maradona signs up as a commentator for a sports variety show.

ROMANIA: Cornel Dinu, former record international and Sports Minister, is appointed national manager in succession to Mircea Radulescu.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 27

BELGIUM: Anderlecht admit that they would listen to offers for Ghanaian wonderboy Nii Lamptey.

CYPRUS: Former Steaua and Romania star Anghel Iordanescu and three players of his Anorthosis team are charged by police with attacking a linesman at a weekend game against Apollon. A riot followed the trouble in which six policemen and more than a dozen supporters were injured. Anorthosis had protested that the only goal of the game, scored by Apollon just before the end, was offside.

GERMANY: Bayern Munich executive vice-president Franz Beckenbauer says he would favour the appointment of Otto Rehhagel, of Werder Bremen, as new coach of Bayern in succession to Soren Lerby.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28

GERMANY: Berti Vogts drops Eintracht Frankfurt midfielder Andy Moller from his squad for the friendly against Italy — even though the squad has not yet been named. Vogts says he does not believe Moller, caught in a transfer crossfire between Frankfurt, Juventus and Atalanta, could concentrate properly on the game.

ITALY: Parma win 2-1 away to Genoa, making the aggregate 4-1, in the one outstanding Italian Cup quarter-final return. In the semi-finals Parma will play Sampdoria while Milan must face Juventus.

YUGOSLAVIA: Red Star sweeper Miodrag Belodedic (above) says he is ready, at last, to play again for Romania: Belodedic had refused before out of fear of the consequences of returning to Romania, from which he fled in December, 1989, seeking asylum in Belgrade.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 29

FRANCE: Marseille win 2-0 against Auxerre in France, with goals from Waddle and Pele . . . police report 55 arrests after trouble in Germany before, during and after Eintracht Frankfurt's 2-1 home win over Hamburg . . . no change in Spain where Real Madrid (1-0 home winners over Gijon) remain one point ahead of Barcelona (2-0 winners away to Oviedo). Madrid's winner is Butragueno's 100th league goal.

OBITUARY

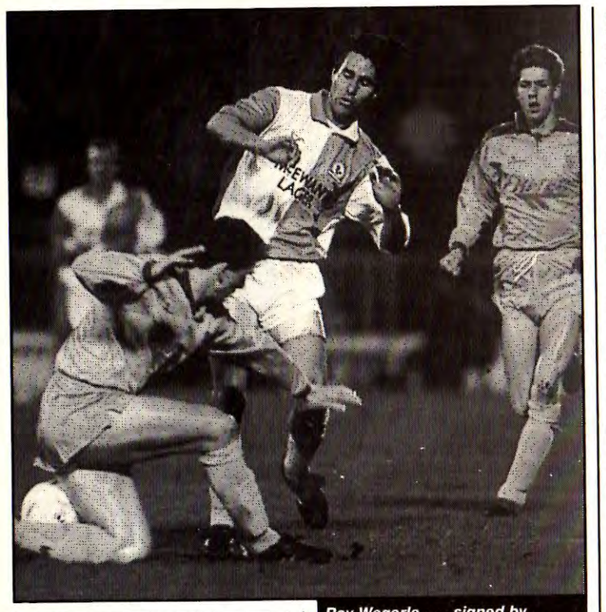
JACKIE MUDIE: Former Blackpool and Scotland inside forward dies aged 62. Mudie played 17 times for Scotland and scored 156 goals in 353 games for Blackpool, where he forged a renowned right-wing partnership with Stanley Matthews.

CONTINUED OVER

TEAM OF THE MONTH:

SPARTA PRAGUE . . .

for maintaining the Czechoslovak revival through their Champions' Cup campaign which has brought them within reach of a place in the Wembley Final.



Roy Wegerle . . . signed by Blackburn Rovers for £1 million.

SUNDAY, MARCH 1

ACTION: *Nottingham Forest beat Tottenham 2-1 at White Hart Lane in the Rumbelows League Cup semi-final second leg — despite an hour's delay caused by security checks after the discovery of a small bomb near the local railway station . . . Ajax win 2-1 at Groningen in the only Dutch League match of the local holiday weekend . . . Van Basten scores a hat-trick as Milan beat Atalanta 3-1 in Italy . . . Real Sociedad coach John Toshack is shown the red card for touchline histrionics five minutes from the end of their goalless draw with Osasuna . . . Grasshoppers regain the lead in Switzerland from Lausanne thanks to a 2-1 defeat of Servette.*

MONDAY, MARCH 2

ARGENTINA: *Diego Maradona says he hopes to negotiate the cancellation of his contract with Napoli later this year when his Italian-imposed 15-month drug suspension ends. Maradona says: "Tell the people of Naples I'll never play there again."*

ENGLAND: *World record international Peter Shilton leaves Derby to take over as player-manager of Second Division Plymouth Argyle.*

FRANCE: *Marseille president Bernard Tapie quells speculation about his future in football when he promises to stay at the helm for another five years.*

GERMANY: *National boss Berti Vogts calls for an end to "the witchhunt" against footballers who may have collaborated with the east German secret police, the Stasi. Then Vogts named ex-GDR striker Ulf Kirsten in his squad to play Italy.*

YUGOSLAVIA: *Red Star agree to play their next two home Champions' Cup ties in Sofia, Bulgaria.*

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

ACTION: *In an all-Paraguayan clash in the South American Club Cup, Sol de America lose 2-0 at home to Cerro Porteno — for whom Argentine World Cup goalkeeper Sergio Goycochea makes his competitive debut. In an all-Uruguayan clash in Montevideo, Defensor lose 1-0 at home to Nacional.*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4

ACTION: *The three European club competitions resume action. Top match in the Champions' Cup sees Anderlecht hit back to beat Sampdoria 3-2 in Brussels.*

GERMANY: *Bayern Munich goalkeeper Raimond Aumann, only just back after prolonged injury, is banned for two matches by the federation after being sent off at the weekend against Koln for a professional foul.*

THURSDAY, MARCH 5

ENGLAND: *US World Cup hopeful Roy Wegerle is sold by Queen's Park Rangers to promotion-seeking Blackburn Rovers of the Second Division for £1million.*

FRIDAY, MARCH 6

ACTION: *South American Club Cup results include a 3-0 victory for Newell's Old Boys of Argentina against defending title-holders Colo Colo.*

BRAZIL: *Sao Paulo coach Tele Santana says he wishes his club did not have to play in the South American Club Cup (the Copa Libertadores) because "it is a hell of a mess with all the problems over bribery, doping and security. I didn't want to play in this worthless thing, but we're in it."*

ENGLAND: *Manchester City take SVV/Dordrecht centre-back Michel Vonk on loan — and, simultaneously, send midfielder Mark Brennan to France for one month's trial with Metz.*

UKRAINE: *The new championship opens with a 2-2 draw between Cernomorets Odessa and Karpati Lvov.*

UNITED STATES: *World Cup organisers confirm that the proposal to use platforms at several 1994 venues to raise the pitch level above seats to gain the necessary pitch width is being scrapped for reasons of cost. Insiders say this increases the prospect of the Rosebowl in Pasadena, rather than Giants Stadium in New York, being awarded the Final.*

SATURDAY, MARCH 7

ACTION: *CSKA Sofia beat Chernomorets 3-0 to stay two points clear of Levski at the top of the Bulgarian championship . . . Portsmouth beat Nottingham Forest 1-0 in the FA Cup quarter-finals . . . French champions Marseille win 1-0 at Nantes, thanks to a late goal from Papin, despite having Manuel Amoros sent off for dissent . . . more gloom for Bayern Munich as they crash 4-0 away to German champions Kaiserslautern . . . goals from Romario and Kalusha Bwalya bring Dutch champions PSV a 2-0 win over Vitesse Arnhem as they open up a temporary four-point lead over Feyenoord and Ajax . . . a blunder by Barcelona goalkeeper Andoni Zubuizarreta costs a vital point, presenting visiting league leaders Real Madrid with a 1-1 draw in Nou Camp.*

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

ACTION: *Bolivar beat fellow Bolivians San Jose 2-1 in the South American Club Cup . . . famous old names clash in Brazil where Santos beat Flamengo 2-0 in a National Championship match. Sao Paulo lose 4-0 at home to Palmeiras and coach Tele Santana accuses his players of not trying . . . Liverpool beat Aston Villa 1-0 in the FA Cup quarter-finals . . . Olympiakos beat Larissa 3-1 to pull level with AEK at the top in Greece . . . Feyenoord beat Ajax 1-0 in a Dutch Cup quarter-final . . . Marco Simone steps up from the reserves' bench to score twice in Milan's 3-1 defeat of Parma . . . Atletico Madrid maintain their faint title hopes in Spain by beating Oviedo 3-1.*

GERMANY: *Koln sack veteran manager Udo Lattek (ex-Bayern, Borussia and Barcelona). President Klaus Hartmann says the action had been likely for several weeks and was not a direct result of Saturday's 2-1 home defeat by league leaders Borussia Dortmund.*

ROMANIA: *Dinamo Bucharest are fined £3,000 by their own federation for breaking FIFA structures and playing tour friendly matches in Turkish-occupied northern Cyprus.*

YUGOSLAVIA: *Up to 2,000 fans fight in one of the worst outbreaks of hooligan violence in the history of Slav soccer. The stage is the First Division match between Pelister Bitola and Vardar Skopje. The match is abandoned at half-time. Ironically these two teams are quitting the league together at the season's end to enter the new Macedonian League.*

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09.00 The Footballers' Football Show
12.30 SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINAL
18.30 NETBUSTERS
21.00 SOCCER SUPERSTARS 6-A-SIDE

THURSDAY 2 APRIL
08.30 NETBUSTERS
13.00 SOCCER SUPERSTARS 6-A-SIDE
18.00 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

FRIDAY 3 APRIL
07.00 SOCCER SUPERSTARS 6-A-SIDE
12.00 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
21.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
22.00 GERMAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL

SATURDAY 4 APRIL
07.00 GERMAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL
11.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

SUNDAY 5 APRIL
07.00 NETBUSTERS
23.00 FA CUP SEMI-FINAL REVIEW

MONDAY 6 APRIL
07.00 FA CUP SEMI-FINAL REVIEW
18.30 NETBUSTERS
20.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL MAGAZINE
22.00 SCOTTISH LEAGUE FOOTBALL

TUESDAY 7 APRIL
09.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL MAGAZINE
11.00 SCOTTISH LEAGUE FOOTBALL
12.30 NETBUSTERS
19.00 AUTOGLASS TROPHY — LIVE
02.00 AUTOGLASS TROPHY AREA FINAL

WEDNESDAY 8 APRIL
08.00 NETBUSTERS
08.30 AUTOGLASS TROPHY AREA FINAL
19.00 FA CUP REPLAY — LIVE
24.30 FA CUP REPLAY

THURSDAY 9 APRIL
12.30 FA CUP REPLAY
22.00 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

FRIDAY 10 APRIL
13.30 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
15.30 NETBUSTERS
16.00 SOCCER SUPERSTARS 6-A-SIDE
19.00 SKY SOCCER **WEEKEND**
20.00 GERMAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL
22.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

SATURDAY 11 APRIL
08.30 GERMAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL
10.30 NETBUSTERS
11.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
12.00 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

MONDAY 13 APRIL
20.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL MAGAZINE
22.00 SCOTTISH LEAGUE FOOTBALL

TUESDAY 14 APRIL
09.00 SCOTTISH LEAGUE FOOTBALL
10.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL MAGAZINE
19.00 SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINAL REPLAY — LIVE
21.30 THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
24.30 SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINAL REPLAY

WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL
12.00 SCOTTISH CUP SEMI-FINAL REPLAY
14.30 THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
18.30 NETBUSTERS

THURSDAY 16 APRIL
16.00 NETBUSTERS
23.00 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

FRIDAY 17 APRIL
13.30 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
21.30 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
22.30 GERMAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL

SATURDAY 18 APRIL
07.30 GERMAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL
11.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

SUNDAY 19 APRIL
22.00 ITALIAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL
23.00 SCOTTISH LEAGUE FOOTBALL

MONDAY 20 APRIL
09.00 SCOTTISH LEAGUE FOOTBALL
23.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL MAGAZINE

TUESDAY 21 APRIL
09.00 ITALIAN FOOTBALL MAGAZINE
21.00 THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW

WEDNESDAY 22 APRIL
09.00 THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
14.30 ITALIAN FOOTBALL MAGAZINE
18.30 NETBUSTERS
19.00 SCOTTISH LEAGUE FOOTBALL — LIVE: Motherwell v Rangers
23.30 SCOTTISH LEAGUE FOOTBALL: Motherwell v Rangers

THURSDAY 23 APRIL
12.30 SCOTTISH LEAGUE FOOTBALL: Motherwell v Rangers
15.00 THE FOOTBALLERS' FOOTBALL SHOW
22.00 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP

FRIDAY 24 APRIL
08.00 EUROPEAN LEAGUE ROUND-UP
19.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
20.00 GERMAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL
22.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND
01.00 GERMAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL

SATURDAY 25 APRIL
08.30 GERMAN LEAGUE FOOTBALL
11.00 SKY SOCCER WEEKEND

SCREENSPORT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10
8.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

THURSDAY, APRIL 21
8.30 ARGENTINA SOCCER
21.30 SPANISH FOOTBALL: Albacete v Real Madrid & At Madrid v Valencia

FRIDAY, APRIL 3
15.30 ARGENTINA SOCCER

SATURDAY, APRIL 4
05.30 ARGENTINA SOCCER

MONDAY, APRIL 6
22.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

TUESDAY, APRIL 7
18.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 8
08.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

THURSDAY, APRIL 9
18.30 ARGENTINA SOCCER

FRIDAY, APRIL 10
16.00 ARGENTINA SOCCER

SATURDAY, APRIL 11
13.00 ARGENTINA SOCCER

MONDAY, APRIL 13
22.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

TUESDAY, APRIL 14
18.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15
08.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

THURSDAY, APRIL 16
18.30 ARGENTINA SOCCER
21.30 SPANISH FOOTBALL: At Madrid v Cadiz & Valencia v Barcelona

FRIDAY, APRIL 17
16.00 ARGENTINA SOCCER

SATURDAY, APRIL 18
13.00 ARGENTINA SOCCER

MONDAY, APRIL 20
22.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

TUESDAY, APRIL 21
18.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 22
08.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

THURSDAY, APRIL 23
18.30 ARGENTINA SOCCER
21.30 SPANISH FOOTBALL: Barcelona v Albacete & Real Madrid v Espanol

FRIDAY, APRIL 24
16.30 ARGENTINA SOCCER

SATURDAY, APRIL 25
06.30 SPANISH FOOTBALL: Barcelona v Albacete & Real Madrid v Espanol
13.00 ARGENTINA SOCCER

SUNDAY, APRIL 26
02.30 ARGENTINA SOCCER

MONDAY, APRIL 27
22.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

TUESDAY, APRIL 28
18.00 SPANISH FOOTBALL

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29
14.30 SPANISH FOOTBALL

THURSDAY, APRIL 30
18.30 ARGENTINA SOCCER
21.30 SPANISH FOOTBALL: Real Sociedad v Real Madrid & At Madrid v Athletic Bilbao

BBC1

WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL
BBC 1 Sportsnight: European Cups, semi-finals 1st leg

FRIDAY 3 APRIL
BBC 2 Sport on Friday: FA Cup semi-finals preview

SATURDAY 4 APRIL
BBC 1 Grandstand: FA Cup Semi-finals preview, Final Scores

SUNDAY 5 APRIL
BBC 1 FA Cup Semi-finals (LIVE)

SATURDAY 11 APRIL
BBC 1 Grandstand: football preview, Final Scores

WEDNESDAY 15 APRIL
BBC 1 Sportsnight: European Cups, semi-finals 2nd leg

SATURDAY 25 APRIL
BBC 1 Grandstand: football preview/review, Final Score

WEDNESDAY 29 APRIL
BBC 1 Sportsnight: UEFA Cup Final lst leg

CLUB FOCUS

NISSAN

NISSAN were relative latecomers to the world of Japanese soccer. Whereas First Division rivals such as Toyota and Toshiba were founded before the war, Nissan only arrived on the scene in 1972. The Japan Soccer League was already seven years old.

The club needed only four years to win their first major trophies: the local Kanto League championship and the Company (Shakaijin) Tournament in 1976. They were elected to the Second Division of the Japan League in the following year.

BY MIKE **PLASTOW** AND MICHI **ISHIJIMA**

Above . . . Nissan's Asian Cup-winners' Cup Final starting line-up (back, l to r): Koizumi, Ihara, Yamada, Tetsuji Hashiratani, Renato, Matsunaga. (Front): Nagayama, Matsuhashi, Suzuki, Everton, Koichi Hashiratani.

Above right . . . Nissan's bright young prospect Junji Koizumi, who had a splendid game in the Asian Cup-winners' Cup Final.

Below . . . action from the Emperor's Cup Final as Ihara and Tetsuji Hashiratani beat Yomiuri's Brazilian star Toninho.

Better late . . .

Japan's trophy-hunters make up for lost time

Nissan completed that first campaign as runners-up, and were promoted to the First Division after finishing second again the next season.

They survived only two seasons in the upper bracket, but bounced straight back in 1981. Since finishing eighth in 1982, they have never been below fifth.

The turning point for Nissan, and for Japanese soccer as a whole, was in 1983, when Yomiuri won their first championship, with Nissan runners-up.

The teams occupied identical positions again in 1984, and the era of Yanmar, Fujita and Mitsubishi had finally come to an end.

In those days Yomiuri were managed first by West German Rudi Gutendorf, then by former Japan international Jorge Yanashiro, and Nissan by Shu Kamo, who guided the club for a decade from 1979.

Nissan started the rush of overseas players to Japan with the signing of Oscar in 1987. He arrived only a year after captaining Brazil in Mexico.

Oscar's presence in the back line was a major factor in the triple crown of 1988-89: the championship, JSL Cup and Emperor's Cup. He took over as manager in 1989 and led the club to a repeat performance the following year.

The present manager, Hidehiko Shimizu, is a former Japan B international and a member of that first Nissan squad in the Japan League in 1977. He played a big role in the Emperor's Cup victories of 1984 and 1986, and became head coach under Oscar in 1989.

Shimizu is known as a master strategist, and his well-drilled side have not had to wait long for success. The club won the Emperor's Cup and now the Asian Cup-winners' Cup in his first season as manager.

Nissan are possibly losing touch with Yomiuri this season in the League, but seem assured of at least second place. Having crushed Yomiuri 4-1 in the final of the Emperor's Cup, they have no reason to feel inferior: they have not lost to Yomiuri since March 1987.

Japanese fans are keenly awaiting the start of the new J League in May 1993. Nissan have chosen the name of their new super league club: Nissan FC Yokohama Marinos, and even have a new team song.

They have not announced any major signings, but word is that they'll be looking once again to South America.

Nissan's Mitsuzawa Stadium is currently being enlarged from its present 12,000 capacity to meet the 15,000 stipulation of the J League.

Come 1996, however, the team also could have the use of an 80,000-seat stadium close to Shin-Yokohama station. That will be built for the National Athletic Tournament in 1998.

The Nissan team are now undergoing a general change. Former Japan national team stars such as Kazushi Kimura, Shinji Tanaka, Takashi Mizunuma and Koichi Hashiratani are in their thirties. So are the two Brazilians, game-maker Everton Nogueira and top scorer Carlos Renato.

In their place, a batch of exciting youngsters has emerged. Masmi Ihara, Nissan's defensive rock, has been playing for Japan since his university days. He is joined by Masaharu Suzuki, Junji Koizumi and Kunio Nagayama.

In midfield, Nissan have Keiichi Zaizen, Satoru Noda and Rikizo Matsuhashi; and in attack, Olympic star Takuya Jinno and 19-year old Isao Yamada, who scored against Yomiuri in this year's Emperor's Cup final.

All are in their early twenties, except for Yamada, who is even younger. They played the leading role in Nissan's Asian Cup-winners' Cup success.

The chances are good that next year they will capture the first J League title as well.

Nissan

FACT BOX

Stadium: Mitsuzawa.
Capacity: 12,000.
Founded: 1972
Manager: Hidehiko Shimizu.
Elected to Japan Soccer League: 1977
League winners: 1989, 1990. Runners-Up: 1983, 1984, 1991.
Cup winners: 1988, 1989, 1990. Runners-up: 1983, 1985, 1986.
Emperor's Cup winners: 1984, 1986, 1989, 1990, 1992. Runners-up: 1991.
Asian Cup-winners' Cup winners: 1992.

Nissan's young stars

Masami IHARA.
Aged 24 (Born 18 September 1967).
Joined Nissan in 1990 from Tsukuba University. Described by Oscar as "The best player in Japanese football." Plays libero but is generally the last line of defence. Known for inch-perfect interception and tackling. Can take considerable credit for Nissan's excellent defensive record last season: 10 goals conceded in 22 games. Appeared in every League game last season, his first year with the club. Already a regular in the Japan team.

Masaharu SUZUKI.
Aged 21 (Born 3 August 1970).
Joined Nissan from high school in 1989. Has not quite established himself this season, but played every game in the Asian Cup-winners' Cup. Member of the Japan Olympic squad.

Junji KOIZUMI.
Aged 24 (Born 11 January 1968).
Graduate of a Nissan farm team. Now in his fourth season with the club. Like Suzuki, not yet established in the league but gave a fine performance in the Asian Cup-winners' Cup Final.

Kunio NAGAYAMA.
Another graduate of a Nissan farm team, now in his third year with the club. A first-team regular and member of Japan Olympic squad.

Keiichi ZAIZEN.
Aged 23 (Born 16 June 1968).
Joined Nissan from high school. Now in his fifth season. A chance maker — he almost always get past his man in one-to-one play. Appeared in the early rounds of the Cup-winners' Cup but missed the final through an injury which will keep him out for the rest of the season.

Satoru NODA.
Aged 22 (Born 19 March 1969).
Joined Nissan from Kokushikan University in 1990. Accurate passer and creator of scoring chances. Not yet a first-team regular, but played in the first seven games of the Asian Cup-winners' tournament. Missed the second leg of the final after receiving his second booking in Riyadh. Often goes forward to join the attack.

Rikizo MATSUHASHI.
Aged 23 (Born 22 August 1968).
Graduate of Nissan farm team, now in his third season. Scored six goals in the Asian Cup-winners' Cup. The player singled out by manager Shimizu as the one who progressed most in the tournament.

Takuya JINNO.
Aged 21 (Born 1 June 1970).
Joined Nissan from high school, now in his third year. Scored all three goals last year in Nissan's two League victories over Yomiuri. A star of the Japan Olympic team, highly acclaimed for his speed and dribbling. Scored twice each against Geylang International and East Bengal in the early Cup-winners' Cup rounds, but missed the semi-final and final due to Olympic commitments and exhaustion after the qualifiers in Kuala Kumpur.

Isao YAMADA.
Aged 19 (Born 29 April 1972).
Joined Nissan from high school in 1990. Made his League debut against ANA on September 29th last year. Scored in the final of the Emperor's Cup. Combines speed with high technique. Member of Japan Olympic squad. Played in every game in the Cup-winners' Cup, and though sent off for fighting in the final looks well set to become a star of the national team.

ASIAN CUP-WINNERS' CUP

Three sent off as Saudis fail again

JAPAN'S Nissan stormed to a crushing 5-0 win over Al-Nasr of Saudi Arabia in the second leg of the Asian Cup-winners' Cup Final.

That gave Nissan a 6-1 aggregate victory and Japan's first major trophy since Yomiuri won the Asian Champions' Cup in 1987. But the tie was marred by three sendings-off that made it all too easy for the Japanese.

Al-Nasr are giants of Saudi football. They have won the championship (now the Custodian of Two Holy Mosques Cup) eight times and the King's Cup seven.

The Nissan game, however, was the latest disappointment of a frustrating year. Al-Nasr finished second to local rivals Al-Shabab in the championship play-off, and to Al-Ittihad in the renamed Crown Prince Cup.

Nissan also finished second in both the Japan League and the Emperor's Cup in 1991 — they qualified for the Cup-winners' Cup when Matsushita withdrew due to injuries — but beat Yomiuri 4-1 in the Emperor's Cup Final in January.

Al-Nasr missed two of their veteran stars. Majed Abdullah had struggled with injury for several months and had just crossed to America for treatment. Vice-captain Saleh Al-Motlaq broke a leg in the semi-final against Ramtha of Jordan.

Nissan again fielded a young side. Manager Hidehiko Shimizu's policy throughout the tournament was to rest his senior players when possible and give the youngsters experience.

The first leg in Saudi Arabia started like a dream for Nissan. Koichi Hashiratani picked up a loose back pass to score after just three minutes.

After that, Nissan needed all their resources to hang on. The equaliser came in the second half when national team goalkeeper Shigetatsu Matsunaga fumbled a shot from Khalid Al-Sumeih. He held it, but the referee judged the ball had crossed the line.

That set up a grand showdown in Japan. The game started well, but everything changed in the 18th minute when a clash on the touchline resulted in a free-for-all. The referee sent off one from each side: Musaad Al-Tureir and Takahiro Yamada.

Cracks now started to appear, and in the 35th minute Brazilian Everton opened the score. Then central defender Nasir Al-Marshad was sent off for a foul and a second goal came two minutes later, by Carlos Renato. Al-Nasr fought bravely in the second half, but Nissan romped to a stunning victory. Renato completed his hat-trick with goals in the 52nd and 62nd minutes, and Rikizo Matsuhashi added a brilliant individual effort in the 70th.

Manager Shimizu expressed pleasure at the way his young players had responded to the challenge, saying: "I thought we might be out of the tournament after two games. Instead, we have come through eight and won the cup.

"Our young players have seen that a Japanese team can win all over Asia, even in the Middle East.

"That's important for their confidence. It will stay in their minds, and will come in useful later when they play for the national team."

Brothers in arms . . . Tetsuji and Koichi Hashiratani with the trophy.

Asia

Close finish as South China falter

BY BOB **PATEMAN**

ONE of the closest League competitions in Hong Kong's soccer history is building up to a tremendous finish.

After ten rounds South China still had a 100 per cent record and a six-point lead. Even with three points for a win, that seemed a safe margin.

Eastern, one of the three leading clubs, won a 4-2 thriller against Club, to stretch their own unbeaten run to ten games, then dropped vital points from three drawn matches, and Sing Tao were able to jump over them into second spot.

The big shocks started with Ernest Borel — in fourth place and out of contention for the title — giving South China their first defeat.

Next came the crucial Eastern v South China game, and a 14,700 crowd saw Paul Nixon score for Eastern after three minutes. Eastern went further ahead early in the second half when Dale Tempest had the satisfaction of scoring against his old club to clinch South China's second defeat in a week.

Suddenly the race was wide open. Eastern, South China and Sing Tao were all on 30 points, and Eastern were now the only unbeaten team.

Sing Tao already have one trophy tucked away, the Challenge Shield. In the semi-final, with holders South China, Sing Tao managed to snatch victory through a goal from Hau Yiu-bun. The final against Instant-Dict went to extra time, and then to a replay, which Sing Tao won 2-1.

Sing Tao made clear their intentions of continuing the chase for honours with the signing of Mike Trusson (right), the former Plymouth, Rotherham, Brighton and Gillingham midfielder. He replaces Chinese international Townsend Qin, who is going to the US.

Another mid-season change was the signing of Robert Perinovic, who joined brother Marko at Happy Valley.

The Hong Kong squad to play in the Chinese New Year tournament gave a clear indication of where the strength lies in the colony. Seven of the 18 were from South China, and only five local players were selected.

The clubs and players are:

South China: Zhang Hukang (g); Pang Kam-chuen (D), Chan Ping-on (D), Leslie Santos (MF), Ross Greer (MF), Trevor Morgan (F), Steve Neville (F).
Eastern: Paul Nixon (MF), Dale Tempest (F).
Ernest Borel: Tam Ah-Ah-fook (D).
Happy Valley: George Haniotis (D), Marko Perinovic (F).
Instant Dict: Russell Milton (MF), Steve Barry (F).
Kui Tan: Wu Yiu-kwok (D).
Sing Tao: Peter Guthrie (G); Jason Hall (D); Paul Murray (MF).

Geylang slip to second

GEYLANG, chasing their fifth consecutive Singapore title, are finding it hard going this year.

With seven rounds played they were in second place behind Tiong Bahru. Geylang, who lost the opening game of the season to Balestier, know that a second defeat might well destroy any realistic hopes of closing the gap.

In their most recent match they came from a goal down to beat Police 2-1.

Tiong Bahru have a strong squad, including veteran 'keeper David Lee, internationals Pathmanathan and Borhan and Czech striker Martin Vana.

Balestier, who retain an outside hope of catching up with the others, rely on their Yugoslavian strikers, Paulic Goran and Marko Krajevic.

International Borhan Abu Samah has signed to play for Penang in the Malaysian League, but hopes to continue representing Singapore, if selected.

Rosan Hamid, a 25-year-old member of the Johor team in Malaysia has been suspended for three years, for kicking a referee. Hamid was with Sanyo at the time.

Kardono quits

AZWAR ANAS, the Minister of Transport, is the new boss of the Indonesian Soccer Association.

He replaces Kardono, who held the position for eight years. Kardono is given credit for sorting out many of the administrative problems at PSSI.

Although only in the final months of his term in office did the national team have any success, winning the South-East Asian tournament.

As his parting message, the outgoing chairman said: "Improving the technical skills of our national players and enriching the know-how of our national trainers should be given top priority by the new central executive board."

THAILAND "A" team won the 23rd King's Cup, beating FC Berlin 2-0 in the final. Attahpol Bussapakom and Songserm Maperm scored the goals.

Thailand "B" defeated the defending champions, China, 1-0 for third spot.

Ooft takes over

THE Japanese are planning to go Dutch — for football know-how.

Hans Ooft, 44-year-old general manager of FC Utrecht, is set to become Japan's national coach, the first foreigner to hold this position. This will be second time lucky for Ooft and the Japanese FA.

Ooft, a former member of the Dutch FA's coaching staff, was chief coach to Mazda Hiroshima between 1984 and 1988. Japan wanted him then as manager, but Mazda put a block on that, because it would have meant working for two bosses.

"This is a chance in a million," says Ooft. "Once you have been a coach, working players is always more enjoyable than sitting behind a desk."

The Japanese offer will tie Ooft to them until and including the 1994 World Cup finals, and he says: "Building a new professional league is aimed at getting the Japanese ready for the world championships for juniors, plus the organisation of the World Cup 2002, for which Japan is already a candidate."

World Cup qualifying games this time are against Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and the United Arab Emirates in the first round.

News in brief

● ***Hugo Maradona has arrived in Japan amid strong hints that elder brother Diego is getting ready to follow. Hugo, who has signed for non-league PJM Futures, said: "My brother still hasn't decided whether to continue in football, but he'll probably come to Japan." Hugo has refused to wear the No. 10 shirt for PJM. He is saving it for Diego.***

● SOUTH KOREA'S Kim Joo Sung is Asian Footballer of the Year for the third successive year.

He was three points ahead of Chung Yong Wham, a team-mate at Daewoo Royals. Abdul Samad Marfavi of Esteghal was third.

● ***GULF soccer is only now returning to normality after the war.***

The 1990 Gulf Co-operation Council Clubs' Championship was recently staged in Doha, Qatar — 14 months after the time originally scheduled for it.

The host nation's representative, Al Sadd, won the tournament, with UAE's Sharjah second.

Although veteran striker Majed Abdullah was top scorer with five goals, favourites Al Nasr of Saudi Arabia were only third.

Bahrain FC (Bahrain), Al Arabi (Kuwait) and Al Nasr (Oman) were the other competitors.

● THE New Zealand national team's eight-match tour of Britain produced mixed results.

A 1-0 victory over Celtic was the highlight, while the 7-0 hammering by Tranmere Rovers brought the Kiwis back to earth.

The overall record of three wins and five losses was satisfactory for a team who had previously had only one win on British soil.

● ***FORMER champions Guangdong are back in the Chinese First Division after a year's absence.***

They won the Second Division title and then regained their place in the top flight through a play-off series.

Shenyang, third in the table, pipped runners-up Locomotive for the second promotion spot.

OKERIE TAKES TOP PRIZE

BY G.C. **DAS**

MOHUN BAGAN won the All-India Federation Cup for a record seventh time in 16 attempts before a 50,000 crowd in Calcutta.

Goals by Debashish Sarkar and Cheema Okerie gave the club a 2-0 win over rivals, East Bengal, in the final.

Okerie was the leading scorer with five goals and was named Player of the Tournament.

The competition, staged in Calcutta for the first time since 1980, involved 12 clubs who played on a league basis in four groups, with knock-out quarter-finals and semi-finals.

Mohun Bagan topped their group by beating JCT Mills of Punjab 1-0 and Titanium Kerala 3-2, then knocked out Mohammedan Sporting 2-0 in the quarter-finals.

This meant a semi-final against JCT Mills and this time the favourites went through 3-1.

East Bengal beat Southern Railway 2-1 before being held to a goal-less draw by SESA of Goa.

In the quarter-final East Bengal had a 3-0 win over another Goa club, MRF, which meant a second game against SESA, and a 2-1 success.

JCT Mills had knocked out Kerala Police 5-4 on penalties after a 0-0 draw.

TOO MUCH FOR SOME, NOT ENOUGH FOR OTHERS

BY BOB **PATEMAN**

INDIA'S colonial past has left them with a long sporting heritage.

They have a large population to select from, a good school system that encourages sport, and, by Third World standards, excellent facilities. Nobody expects them to be up there with Germany or France, but they have remarkable historic and social similarities with Egypt.

Yet while Egypt can go to the World Cup and not be disgraced, India still struggle to make any impact at even a regional level.

There are no lack of theories about what is wrong with Indian soccer. Amal Dutta, tipped to be the next manager of the national team, has been quoted as saying: "Our players are over-worked. Preparation time is limited and many players have a very hectic schedule."

He certainly has a point. With various cup competitions and prestigious tournaments, it is not unknown for players to have 10 games in 14 days. Yet while the top few are playing too much, many up-and-coming players struggle to find enough quality games.

Another problem is that even the top players get little contact with good sides from Europe or South America, or even a chance to play against top Asian teams.

This, however, is seeing India's problems in isolation. All the problems that are true for Indian soccer are also true for Nigeria, Egypt, Thailand, or any other Third World side.

The fact remains that, for some reason, soccer simply has not captured the Indian imagination. Drive through the urban areas of Delhi and you will notice cricket being played on every open space, but nowhere will you see young boys kicking footballs.

The formation of the Tata Football Academy is one experiment that might raise standards. The idea was to select 20 of the country's best young players, and bring them together to live and train as a team.

Not only is this a tactical move, but in a country where many people are too poor to afford a nourishing diet, it provides the opportunity to supervise the health and physical development of these young players.

The first squad of TFA youngsters are now maturing, and beginning to take on all-comers in tournaments around the country.

Four of the academy — Balin Singh, Chandan Dey, Gautam Ghosh and Alok Das — are on the verge of the Indian national team, and Ballin Singh is tipped to become one of India's all-time greats.

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Europe

FRANCE BY ANDRE DUCLOS

WEMBLEY DEFEAT A BLESSING IN DISGUISE

Ginola (above) . . . should be given an extended run in the French side.

CONTRARY to reports, France have scored at Wembley. Twice, to be exact, in May 1945, against a very strong England team who were glad to scrape a draw.

One excuse was that many players had only just returned from a long and taxing tour of Italy with the British Army team. But what of France, who had not long emerged from Nazi occupation? The Alsacian, Oscar Heisserer, he of the big boots and World Cup past, scored one of the French goals that day.

A year later, in Paris with a strong half-back line of Prouff, Cuissard and Leduc, France had the effrontery to beat England 2-1. But both were unofficial internationals and you won't find them in the records that matter.

None of which alleviates the pain and surprise of going down 2-0 at Wembley, the first defeat in 20 matches. Revenge would be sweet if we can put it over Graham Taylor's team in Sweden next June when it really matters.

Perhaps in some slight way this defeat might be a blessing in disguise, showing up clear deficiencies in the rearguard and a surprising lack of finish in an attack which, even by Taylor's computation, was quite dominant for some 25 minutes of the first half.

Our "A" team did not even go as close as the "B" side who at least, at Shepherd's Bush, scored a perfectly good in-off-the-bar goal but had it disallowed by a Norwegian linesman.

A few days after Laurent Blanc's defensive failure at Wembley, he had a good game as libero for Napoli in a 1-0 away win. When asked if he thought this was his best performance yet for the club he laconically agreed, if you went by Italian standards.

Blanc, so fluent and adventurous going forward, so unconvincing at times when called on to defend at Wembley, may be pushed up into midfield by Napoli next season. Should France do that, too? The fact is that even when Montpellier made him into a libero, Blanc was not all that keen to desert the midfield. He loves striking for goal, especially with his head, he loves to bring the ball out of defence, but covering and tackling — as once plainly shown when Lineker left him standing — are somewhat less in his line.

Is it time for the wandering David Ginola to have an extended chance in the top team, given his more than useful performance for the "B" side at QPR. Ginola, having got away from Brest, now bankrupt, seems happy enough at Paris Saint Germain.

How he has moved about since excelling in the Under-21 team who, four years back, won the Toulon tournament ahead of an England side including Paul Gascoigne! Ginola, turned down originally by Nice was a Toulon player at the time.

Moved

Subsequently he moved to Matra Racing, the doomed Parisian club. With Luis Fernandez clearly feeling the ravages of the years, and Perez more of a winger than a central midfielder, Ginola could yet stake his claim in time to be a force in Sweden.

By then, Eric Cantona should be a good deal sharper than he was at Wembley, when he had had only a few games for Leeds, after a long lay-off.

He and Papin have a notable understanding, and Cantona's blend of power and technique is always a potential matchwinner, when he is wholly match fit. Something the rugged, rapid English First Division is well calculated to bring about.

How will the strange tale of Leonardo Rodriguez end? The strong, quick Argentine attacker has had a splendid season on loan with Toulon, but his ultimate destination was supposed to be Marseille. Even that was put in doubt when his home club, San Lorenzo, complained loudly that they had not been paid the instalments Marseille owed.

Marseille contested this version of the facts, but the whole episode once more called into question the future of Marseille and the ebullient president, Bernard Tapie.

Is he as rich as he says he is, or as overstretched as his opponents proclaim? Will he be finally brought down by the revenue's investigation into allegedly illegal payments to Marseille players some three years ago? This, too, is being dismissed by Tapie as a mere political move against him.

Officially, Marseille were not eligible to sign Rodriguez, having already filled their quota of foreigners. Tapie got round this by doing a private deal with San Lorenzo. Rodriguez arrived expecting to play at once for Marseille, only to find that he had been loaned to Toulon. He liked it there but, understandably, does not want to stay with them.

Then he let a large cat out of the bag when he admitted that in Toulon's recent 1-0 victory in Marseille, he was not exactly killing himself, knowing that he was playing against a club he hoped to be joining at the end of the season.

Tapie has promised a great clear-out, but how much of it will be voluntary, how much of it enforced? Platini soldiers on, pointing out to those who suggest he is lucky to be able to call on so many Marseille players that it was he who made most of them internationals, after which Marseille simply bought them.

Goodbye Brest Armorique, long live Stade Brestois 29, rising from the Breton club's ashes to compete in Division Three. All but two African players voted with their feet when Brest went to the wall; even the best juniors were snapped up.

Yvon Le Roux, not so long ago France's centre back, is helping to motivate the new club.

TURKEY BY HASAN CEMALI

FENERBAHCE midfielder Gerson has been attracting attention since the season's second half began — and he could soon be going home.

Not on a full-time basis, but to join the international squad.

National team manager Carlos Alberto Parreira has kept an eye on Gerson, who moved to Turkey on loan from Bari in Italy, and might give him a chance.

Metin Asak, who has been re-elected as Fenerbahce president, is keen to sign Gerson permanently, but the fee is proving a problem.

Fenerbahce began the second stage in fine style, winning their first four matches, 3-1 against Bursa, 1-0 against Bakirkoy, 4-1 against Ankaragucu, and 2-1 against Kenyaspor, with Gerson scoring in three.

Manage

Besiktas also won their first four to stay two points ahead, on 52. Trabzonspor and Galatasaray were third and fourth.

Tanju's goal against Bursa was his 200th in the Turkish League. He has been top scorer four times, and won the adidas Golden Shoe in 1987-88 as Europe's leading marksman.

Feyyaz of Besiktas is top shot, with 17, two ahead of Fenerbahce's Aykut. Hami of Trabzonspor had 13 and Tanju 11.

Galatasaray did well to hold Werder Bremen to 2-1 in the away leg of the Cup-winners' Cup quarter-final, thanks mainly to Heyrettin's excellent goalkeeping. In the return, they could only manage a 0-0 draw, despite Bremen's Dieter Eiltz being sent-off and went out 2-1 on aggregate.

GERMANY BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

LERBY DISMISSED IN NEW BAYERN CRISIS

End of the road for Lerby (left) as Erich Ribbeck (above) takes over.

BAYERN Munich have sacked another coach. Soren Lerby has followed in the tracks of Jupp Heynckes, who was dismissed last autumn after their depressing start to the season.

Lerby's appointment was a mystery in the first place. He had no previous big club coaching experience and he did not hold the necessary qualifications to work in the Bundesliga.

At the start of this year Bayern officials admitted that Lerby would have to go at the season's end.

That's when speculation began about the third coach inside a year. Executive vice-president Franz Beckenbauer even had his wrists slapped by the board for his favourable comments about Werder Bremen boss Otto Rehhagel. President Fritz Scherer directed: "No-one in the club must talk about the coaching situation."

Lerby was dismissed in the wake of a four-goal defeat by Kaiserslautern. His replacement, until the end of term is Erich Ribbeck. Perhaps significantly, Ribbeck had lately been working as a promotional excutive for car makers Opel — who just happen to be Bayern's main sponsors.

Now there will be a clear-out in Munich. Thomas Berthold, capped 49 times who cost £1 million, will go, as will Olaf Thon and Manfred Bender.

Vice-president Karl-Heinz Rummenigge announces: "We need 18 first-class players who fit into the club, ideally a mixture of young and old."

The present team obviously need overhauling. Thomas Strunz is the fifth libero the management have tried so far, after Berthold, Ziege, Wouters and Reinhardt.

Raimond Aumann, who had only just returned after two operations, was sent off in one game. Mazinho, Thon, Reinhardt and Bender, plus Berthold, have been on the reserve bench, and Ziege, Labbadia and McInally have been injured.

Bad times indeed.

The other main controversy has been the transfer confusion surrounding Eintracht Frankfurt's Andy Moller.

Midfielder Moller, now 24, startled the German soccer fraternity a year ago by agreeing to join Juventus, but they sold the transfer option on to Atalanta. Juventus claim he has signed an agreement which covers his salary, transfer and signing-on fee.

But now Moller, not so long ago praised in Germany for staying put and rejecting Italian and Spanish offers, cannot make up his mind where he wants to play.

The unsavoury circumstances of the player's dealings with three clubs has turned the affair into a scandal.

Now Moller's place in the national squad is under threat. Manager Berti Vogts is upset because Moller supposedly told him that he is moving to Atalanta, but the player claims he was misunderstood.

He says he wants to stay with Eintracht, then next day changes his tune.

Vogts dropped Moller from his squad for the friendly against Italy because he did not think he was able to concentrate properly on his football.

National team captain Lothar Matthaus is annoyed, too, and speaks for his team mates when he says: "This tug-of-war is shameful and a bad advert for football.

"Andy not only damages his own reputation, but he upsets his club and national team colleagues as well. He will soon lose all credibility. A player of his status has no need for this farce."

Meanwhile 58 per cent of Eintracht fans are demanding that the club should let Moller go.

Whatever happens, Eintracht will collect £2.1 million, and anything above that amount will be divided between the club (ten per cent) and player (90 per cent).

In the meantime Eintracht team manager Dragoslav Stepanovic is contemplating whether he should rest Moller.

"There is too much pressure on Andy. A psychologically disturbed player is no good to us," he explained.

Moller . . . his transfer has turned into an unsavoury affair.

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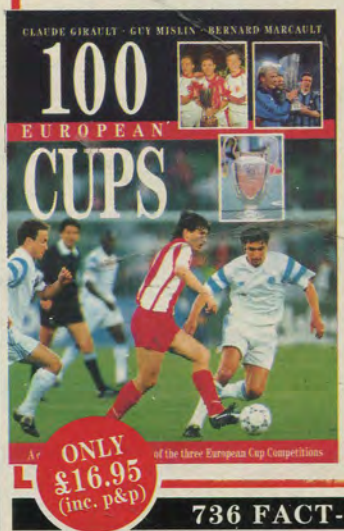

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SPAIN BY GRAHAM TURNER

Goalkeeping errors may decide top spot

GOALKEEPING trials and errors could decide the League title this season.

In the crucial top-of-the table clash in the Nou Camp, Barcelona were leading Read Madrid 1-0 thanks to a free-kick masterfully bent round the wall by Ronald Koeman, and struck with enough power to beat Paco Buyo in the corner he was protecting.

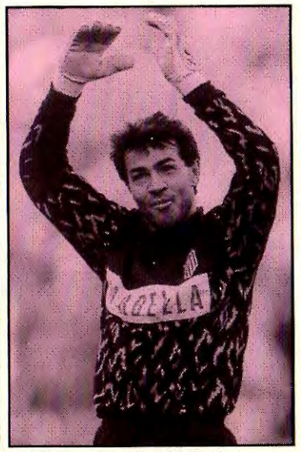
Then, after 65 minutes, Emilio Butragueno weaved into enough space amid four defenders to pull the ball from the left into Fernando Hierro's path. His right-footed shot was neither fierce nor well-placed, but Andoni Zubizarreta allowed the ball to bounce from his right forearm into the net.

Final score 1-1, and Barcelona had failed to take the lead in the title race.

A week later, Barcelona were being given a roasting in Madrid. After five minutes Atletico's top scorer Manolo latched on to a pass from Bernd Schuster and prodded the ball through Zubizarreta's legs. Ten minutes later Manolo beat Zubi again.

Barcelona, thoroughly outplayed, did not manage an on-target shot until 70 minutes, but Juan Carlos Nadal rounded off a scruffy move to make it 2-1 soon afterwards. Then Bulgarian striker Hristo Stoichkov was sent off.

Zubizaretta . . . under pressure.



Abel . . . severely criticised.

Decided

Two minutes later, goalkeeper Abel decided to give ten-man Barcelona a helping hand, or leg.

Abel — who broke the world goalkeeping record last year — decided to gain a few yards by not intercepting the ball with his hands. But instead of killing it on his thigh he allowed it to bounce off his kneecap. Jose Maria Bakero said "muchas gracias" and made it 2-2.

A few hours later, Real Madrid were beaten in Logrones by a solitary goal from Austrian striker Toni Polster, which meant that, under Leo Beenhakker, Real had just that fortunate draw in Barcelona to show from four away games, plus a 0-0 Cup draw in Valencia and an undistinguished 1-1 UEFA Cup result against Sigma Olomouc in Czechoslovakia, where Real maintained their appalling European disciplinary record by having Javier Villarroya and Luis Milla sent off.

In the meantime, Zubizarreta and Abel were being hauled over all the coals the Spanish media could find. The press even latched on to Zubi's misfortune to mount a campaign in favour of Real's Paco Buyo taking over the national team jersey.

Readers reluctant to believe in the sheer ferocity of Spanish attacks on errant goalkeepers could refer back to star performers such as Ubaldo Fillol, Rinat Dassaev, Nery Pumpido, Luis Islas and Rene Higuita, who have emigrated to Spain only to have their confidence totally destroyed.

Ironically, another error passed virtually unnoticed. As Spain's former keeper Luis Arconada says: "our fans will accept mistakes by visiting keepers, but they are merciless with their own."

American Tony Meola's failure to hold a shot was therefore gratefully received.

He marred an otherwise excellent performance by handing the Spaniards their opening goal during the friendly in Valladolid.

A Fernando Hierro free-kick in the second half signified a respectable 2-0 scoreline but did little to augur a brilliant future for the national team, who start their 1994 World Cup qualifiers against Albania this month.

After the drab 1-1 draw with the CIS in Valencia in February, national team manager Vicente Miera was rushed to hospital and had to have part of his colon removed to remedy a "chronic ulcerous condition caused by stress". Jesus Pereda, boss of the Under-21 side, was on the bench for the US game, but Miera's operation was a severe blow to Spain's preparations for the World Cup and — more especially — the Barcelona Olympics, where a gold medal would mitigate the pessimism generated by failure to qualify for Sweden.

Spanish hopes are tempered by the price of gold.

The Under-23 squad demanded a flat fee of £23,500 per head, plus £11,000 should they qualify for the second phase, plus £22,500 for the bronze medal, £28,000 for the silver, and £33,500 for winning the tournament. In other words, the gold medal is worth £68,000 per man.

The Federation's final offer is £38,000 and, at the time of writing, is accompanied by the threat of fielding the Under-19 side if it's not accepted.

Back in the League, the battles to avoid relegation are every bit as gripping as the title race.

Cadiz, whose president Manuel Irigoyen is recovering from a heart attack, are engaged in their perennial struggle, along with Valladolid.

Along with predictable strugglers such as Mallorca, Coruna and Tenerife, Osasuna and Oviedo — both European qualifiers last season — are surprising victims of deep crises.

Sacked

But amid all the mayhem, Javier Clemente has given Espanol a glimpse of light at the end of the tunnel. Clemente had lost his way at Atletico Madrid and during a disastrous second spell at Athletic Bilbao.

Since his return to Espanol, whom he led to the UEFA Cup Final in 1988, he has begun to re-establish his reputation as one of Spain's finest coaches.

Lubo Petrovic was sacked by Espanol after taking four points from eight games. His successor, Jaime Sabate, went the same way after taking four points in ten.

Clemente, basing his strategy on the Russian trio of Galyamin, Mokh and Kuznetsov, took the Budgies out of the relegation placings with 11 points from his first eight games. And, contrary to trends at the other end of the table, one of his trump cards is the goalkeeper Vicente Biurrun.

Replacing Cameroon international Thomas N'Kono, an idol at Espanol, was a tough task he readily overcame. Now Sarria is one of the few grounds in Spain where one regularly hears "the goalkeeper done well."

PORTUGAL BY ALBERTO DA SILVA

PORTO SURGE ON AS BENFICA SLIP

BENFICA'S illusions as far as the Champions' Cup are concerned have now disappeared.

After their glorious display against Arsenal at Highbury they were beaten in Kiev and held at home by Barcelona and Sparta Prague — mini-league results that effectively ended their hopes.

The loss of two outstanding Brazilians, Ricardo and Valdo, was a contributing factor. So was the need to accommodate new Soviet players. Time was lost and points conceded as the newcomers adapted.

Benfica might well take the Portuguese Cup, but they do not seem capable of making up the League leeway on Porto.

A monotonous succession of poor results, including the infamous home draw with Torriense, bottom of the table at the time, have turned people against the manager, Sven-Goran Eriksson, who is now certain to leave at the end of the season. Many are surprised that he has lasted as long as he has.

Moved

His counterpart at Porto, Carlos Alberto da Silva, must take much credit for the club's splendid season.

He had had virtually a club a year before moving to Portugal — Guarani in 1984, Santa Cruz and Recife in 1985, Goias and Cruzeiro in 1986, Sao Paulo 1989-90, then Yomiuri in Japan.

Then he moved to Porto last summer, succeeding Artur Jorge, and soon showed his qualities.

I found him in the team bus after the 3-1 defeat by Tottenham in the Cup-winners' Cup last November.

He was upset, and missed the media conference to take refuge on his own.

When I asked da Silva about the future, he replied: "In four months we'll be the leading team in Portugal."

He was right.

Battle for supremecy . . . Porto's Andrade (stripes) tangles with Benfica's Kulkov in Oporto.

CYPRUS BY LAKIS AVRAAMIDES

Coaches in, coaches out

COACHES have come and gone so quickly this season that keeping track of them has been difficult.

Half the 14 clubs in the First Division had made changes by the halfway mark, with two clubs — Olympiakos and Evagoras — both getting rid of two.

Not surprisingly, both clubs are in the relegation zone.

Olympiakos dismissed Panos Markovic and replaced him with a German, Horst Heeze, who lasted only one month.

England's Mike Ferguson left Evagoras and was succeeded by a Bulgarian, Ionov Arsov, who promptly switched to Omonia to take over from Brazilian Graziano Zakarel.

Stavros Papadopoulos quit his job with Pezoporikos after a run of bad results, but the club have been unable to find a replacement, so Stavros is back in charge until the end of the season.

Former Scotland international Peter Cormack is now coaching Aris, having taken the job on the dismissal of Georgi Denev from Bulgaria.

An Austrian, Gerhart Walter, was sacked by Paralimni and replaced by Dimos Constandinou, a local. Another Bulgarian, Bozil Kolev, has been replaced at Salamina by a Pole, Vladislav Engel.

Disputed

Anorthosis lost the league leadership when beaten 1-0 by the champions, Apollon, with a disputed late goal. This provoked violence among players, officials and fans, and led to 18 minutes of "overtime" plus two dismissals, seven bookings, and injuries to six policemen.

So APOEL, 4-0 winners away to Evagoras, led by two points with eight games remaining.

New national coach Andreas Michaelides is busy preparing for the World Cup qualifying matches, away to Belgium this month and the Faroes in June.

He is only too well aware that Cyprus did not get a single point in the European Championship qualifiers, and have not won a full international since 1973.

GREECE BY LOU ECONOMOPOULOS

PRESIDENT'S 16-YEAR SENTENCE

FORMER Olympiakos president Argyris Saliarelis has been given a 16-year prison sentence for helping his predecessor, George Koskotas to flee the country in 1988, but the club continue to play well. They top the standings and are still in competition for the Greek Cup.

The court unanimously found Saliarelis guilty without any mitigating circumstances.

Koskotas, former banker and president of Olympiakos before Saliarelis, is in prison awaiting trial on fraud and embezzlement charges. He told the court that Saliarelis helped him flee, first to a Greek island and then to Kenya.

Saliarelis then emerged as the club's major shareholder, and says he still owns around 60 per cent.

Assured

He joined Koskotas in the same prison in February on charges of embezzling $3 million from Hungarian Lajos Detari's sale to Italy's Bologna.

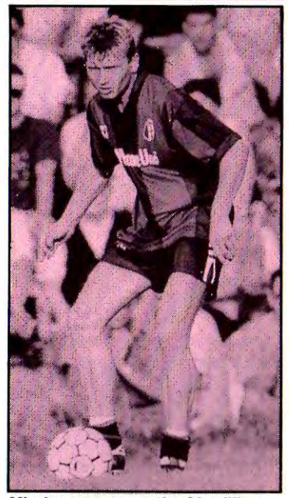
Despite all the furore, the players continue to keep their minds on opponents.

"Their desire to play well during difficult times has been the key to the success so far," said the captain, Yotis Tsalouhidis.

"It would be a lie to say that the various problems off the pitch are not affecting the players.

Some of our bad performances this season were due to these problems. But we have been assured by the current administration that things will change for the better."

Meanwhile, Third Division player Haris Papageorgiou may lose the sight of one eye because of an object thrown by irate fans.



Missing money . . . the £3 million Olympiakos received for Detari from Bologna has disappeared.

Papageorgiou and his Aegaleo team-mates were playing at Atromitos Athens when fans from the home team threw coins and other objects.

Papageorgiou, 23, was rushed to hospital, where doctors gave him small chance of retaining the sight in one eye, despite laser surgery.

"We are trying to remain calm but are praying to God. I can't understand how a human hand can do such a thing," the player's mother told reporters.

POLAND BY BOB VAUGHAN

KLAK'S BIG CHANCE

POLES abroad, though poles and a great distance apart, were making the news as domestic soccer lurched back into action.

Rather surprisingly English Second Division promotion candidates Blackburn were investing in Olympic goalkeeper Aleksander Klak, the promising Debica discovery.

This will be good experience for the young hopeful and national team manager Andrzej Strejlau will be keeping an eye on Klak's progress in a position in which "Klub Polska" have not always been convincing recently.

Blackburn also have lined up a £500,000 deal for Lech's under-21 international striker Andrzej Juskowiak.

Strejlau also will have been heartened by the goalscoring feats of Roman Kosecki in Turkey, where he recalled his better days at home. Kosecki scored twice for Galatasaray against Genclerbirligi, but was involved in opposition defender Ali's sending off. Ali had been marking him, probably in more than one sense.

AUSTRIA BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Baric sets the pace

EXPERTS ARE ASKING: can the surprise leaders, Austria Salzburg, continue where they left off before the break and win the title for the first time?

In the last eight rounds of the qualifying phase the Austrianer led the table ahead of the big three — FK Austria, FC Tirol and Rapid Vienna. Then, because of the peculiarity of the system, Salzburg were overtaken by holders FC Austria without playing.

When the points gained from the initial phase last autumn were halved, FK were first on superior goal difference. No matter, Salzburg are regarded as serious favourites.

Experienced

This is a marvellous achievement for their Croatian manager, Otto Baric, well travelled and highly experienced.

Baric won two titles with Innsbruck and four with Rapid, whom he also took to the 1985 Cup-winners' Cup Final in Rotterdam against Everton.

In a short time he has assembled a hard core of experienced men such as Heribert Weber, Gerald Willfurth and Christian Keglevits, in a wonderfully combative team.

Apart from the well-balanced mix, superb physical condition allows Salzburg to launch their power play.

Above-average gates of 13,000 also helped the team to win all their 11 home games. If they carry on in the present form, the Salzburger will certainly write a new chapter in the club's history.

YUGOSLAVIA BY TIM COLLINGS

PANCEV TAKES HIS REVENGE

DARKO PANCEV proved his and Red Star Belgrade's undiminished appetite and improved Yugoslavia's European Championship hopes with his goal-scoring form after the winter break.

Pancev, one of Europe's most exciting strikers, showed he was back in the groove with a hat-trick for Red Star in thier 5-0 thrashing of Proleter Zrenjanin and two more in Athens, where Panathinaikos were beaten 2-0.

The talented and much sought-after Pancev, whose future had been shrouded in doubt sparked by fresh political claims by Macedonia's politicians, also helped Red Star to the last four of the Yugoslav Cup with a 3-0 triumph against Sloboda.

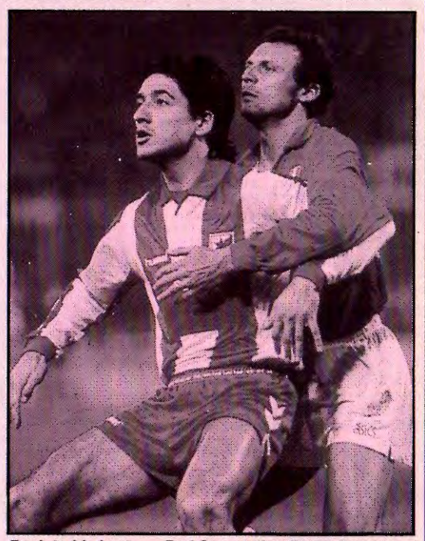
Determined

Pancev is determined not to let the civil war and continuing unrest upset his form in the build-up to this summer's European Championship finals. Despite all their problems, the majority of the Yugoslavs still want to play.

In Athens, Pancev even overcame all the red tape when he and his wife were refused entry because of their Macedonian passports.

A long argument ensued and it was only when, after much talking, one of the Greek officials stamped "Yugoslavia" across the Macedonia inscription on his passport, that Pancev was allowed to pass. He took his revenge on the pitch.

The Macedonian threat to pull their clubs and players out of the championship came to nothing when the season resumed, with Partizan, greatly unsettled by Israel's overtures to their coach and national team boss Ivica Osim, leading on 25 points, and Red Star second on 24.



Back to his best . . . Red Star striker Darko Pancev.

Osim, confused by his own torn loyalties, was still reported to be mulling over his future weeks after first talking to the Israeli FA, and had further offers to consider from Bayern Munich, Qatar and more than one Danish club.

It was no surprise, in the circumstances, to see Partizan struggling to match Ped Star's brilliant getaway at the restart of the season.

They lost the leadership when they went down 2-1 against Vojvodina, for only their second defeat of the season, on the same weekend that unfancied Belgrade outfit OFK moved up to third with an unexpected 2-1 win over Radnicki in Nis.

Feyenoord flair . . . Durie of Spurs cannot break through.

HOLLAND BY SIMON KUPER

FEYENOORD IN THE MONEY

THIS will be remembered as a good season for Feyenoord, even though they may well finish it without a trophy.

The club, in decline since 1974, are now on the way up again.

They have a good chance of winning the Cup, having reached the semi-finals. They might even beat PSV to the League title — despite a damaging home defeat by Maastricht — and they have had a good run in the Cup-winners' Cup.

Crucially, Feyenoord's awful finances are improving by the week. The home leg against Tottenham drew 48,000 fans and produced club record receipts of £700,000. Four days later, the Cup quarter-final against Ajax brought in another £400,000.

These are enormous sums for Dutch clubs and Feyenoord's treasurer Jorien van der Herik must have wept with joy at drawing two such attractive opponents.

Glorious

The fact that Feyenoord beat both Spurs, on aggregate, and Ajax by 1-0 says everything about them. It is almost impossible to score against Feyenoord.

They conceded 14 goals in their first 26 league matches, but are finding it almost as difficult to score. The confidence of the players had been battered for years, so only now, after seven glorious months, are the side becoming less defensive.

The problem is that Feyenoord lack a real centre-forward. Hungarian Jozsef Kiprich currently plays in that position, but though he is the highest scorer with eight League goals, he plainly feels much more at ease on the wing.

Feyenoord's revival has won places in the national squad for three of their players.

Peter Bosz made his international debut as a defensive midfielder against Greece in December, outside-right Gaston Taument played his first match against Portugal in February, and Henk Fraser, De Wolf's partner in central defence, won a recall to the squad and played against Portugal.

Fraser looks exactly like Des Walker and with his speed, athleticism and skill is a very similar defender.

Johnny Metgood is 34, but when he was asked why he had won only 21 caps, he joked: "Watch out. My career isn't over yet."

Metgod is playing as well as he did for Nottinhgam Forest in the mid-1980s.

Feyenoord are still looking for a replacement for manager Hans Dorjee, whose spell at the club ended in acrimony. The new man will work closely with coach Wim Jansen, so whoever is chosen will change little.

The players adore Jansen, and the club's recovery began when he arrived at the club a year ago.

SVV/Dordrecht have found themselves a new manager, Hans Berger taking over from Hans Verel. Inevitably.

Verel replaced the popular Dick Advocaaat last autumn and the players took against him immediately. SVV became known as the "rebel club", as players often walked away from training sessions and Verel lost all control of the side.

Surprisingly, SVV have played quite well this season and are almost safe from relegation, but the atmosphere has gone from bad to worse.

DENMARK BY JIM HOLDEN

Games consolation for the kids

THE young stars of B1903 predictably failed in their UEFA Cup quarter-final against Torino, losing 3-0 on aggregate.

The club will soon be no more, after the merger into the new FC Kobenhavn. But they left the European stage in no disgrace after their defeat against Torino.

They had territorial domination of the home leg, but failed to break down a well-organised side and lost to a goal on the break and a late free-kick.

That made the second leg in Turin much of a formality, and a 1-0 reverse was no shame.

The final act for B1903 is the second half of the first Superliga season, where they stood second behind Brondby at the winter break.

That began at the end of March and is due to finish in June, with everyone closely looking at attendance figures to see if the experiment will work. There was significant consolation for some of the B1903 players with involvement in Denmark's fine Under-21 side.

They thrashed Poland 5-0 in the first leg of the European Under-21 tournament quarter-finals, a clash which doubled up as a qualifier for the Olympics in Barcelona.

Only a total disaster in the return leg would prevent Denmark's return to the Olympic finals they have graced so often in the past.

Three of B1903's side played against Poland: defender Diego Tur, midfielder Lars Hojer Nielsen, and striker Martin Johansen.

But the star of the night in Aalborg was striker Miklos Molnar, currently the top scorer in Switzerland with Servette, who hit two stunning goals. He was rejected by Chelsea after a trial a couple of seasons ago.

Bewildered

Denmark scored all five goals before half-time as they overwhelmed the bewildered Poles, who lost goalkeeper Alexsander Klak injured after only 11 minutes.

Peter Moller of Aab Aalborg also scored twice on his home ground, along with one from midfielder Per Frandsen who plays for Lille.

The success has given Danish soccer renewed hope that better times are on the way, and helped to banish the bitter memories of controversial disqualification after reaching the 1988 Seoul Olympics.

Then the Danes lost out because thay fielded an ineligible player, Per Frimann, in a qualifying group victory, ironically enough against Poland at home.

Now there is a definite feeling that Denmark have a real chance of winning Olympic gold at soccer after coming so close for so long.

They were beaten finalists in both 1908 and 1912, and as true amateurs pitted against the East European "shamateurs" came third in 1948 and second in 1960.

Turin triumph . . . Walter Casagrande (left) beats B1903's Diego Tur during Torino's 1-0 victory in the UEFA Cup quarter-final, second leg.

Gullit has a go

HOLLAND captain Ruud Gullit, never one to keep quiet when he believes he has something important to say, reckons the qualifying run-up towards the 1994 World Cup finals in the United States has been helped by a stroke of luck that has rescued them from a tactical blunder.

The Dutch FA announced that Johan Cruyff would be their chief coach, IF Holland reached the finals, but this BEFORE they had received an answer from Dick Advocaat, currently No. 2 to Rinus Michels, when he was asked to take over the team during the qualifying stages.

Gullit, who has the full support of Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, the other members of AC Milan's "terrible trio", says: "I'm delighted Dick has agreed. We know him well and have a lot of respect for him, but the FA were stupid in their timing of the Cruyff announcement.

"This could have left us with a second-rate coach to fill in the time before Cruyff took over. This pair could make a good team. I only hope Johan can come to some arrangement with Dick before the finals."

Growing up

The Dutch League's top scorer, Dennis Bergkamp, has a wise head on young shoulders. Wise enough for him to announce after receiving the Player of the Year award that he intends staying with Ajax for at least one more season.

That is despite interest from Real Madrid and Barcelona, who are coached by Dutchman — Leo Beenhakker with Real and Johan Cruyff with Barcelona.

Bergkamp says: "I've given this a lot of thought. Growing up in a football sense can be quick, but I believe I can still get a lot better.

"I've developed self-confidence and that was something Cruyff always saw deep in me when he was Ajax coach. I'm grateful for all he has taught me, but I'm not going to rush into anything."

ERIC NICHOLLS

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BELGIUM BY GILBERT ROUSSELLE

Gunter leads the goal spree

ROUND 23 of the League programme left most fans happy with 40 goals being scored in nine games.

Leaders Anderlecht beat Liege 5-1 and Standard Liege defeated Waregem 6-3. But the biggest score was at the Deurne Stadium in Antwerp where Germinal Ekeren beat the home club 8-2.

Hammered

This was Ekeren's record away win and the biggest in the Premier Division since Standard hammered Winterslag 12-0 in 1979-80.

Gunter Hofmans scored five for Ekeren, including a hat-trick in 17 minutes.

Mechelen beat Charleroi 2-0, and Club Brugge had a 1-0 away win over Aalst to keep in the title race.

The other Bruges club, Cercle, have the League's leading scorer — the Yugoslavian Josip Weber, with 20.

CIS & UKRAINE BY BOB VAUGHAN AND VLADIMIR KALINKOVIC

KOLOSKOV KEEPS HIS CROWN

THE Russian Football Association was set up in January but when the 260 delegates met a month later they threw out the plan put forward by Viacheslav Koloskov, the last President of the USSR Federation.

The opted for a RUSSIAN Championship and voted against the "Open League" plan advocated by Koloskov.

His troubles had begun a few days before, when the Moscow clubs, Dynamo, Spartak, Torpedo, CSKA and Lok, said they would refuse to compete in a CIS League.

The idea had been for two groups of 11 clubs, split geographically, to play for the CIS, and presumably the top two in each group would have played off for the new trophy.

Ignored

CSKA were having none of it. Manager Pavel Sadirin said all sporting criteria had been ignored, while Spartak's veteran administrator Starostin and Torpedo chief Skomorohov wanted to know who would guarantee the safety of their teams in places where civil war rages.

The problems in distant places away from Moscow convinced the capital's clubs that they were right in claiming the idea was a non-starter. Had not other States already inaugurated their own Republic Championships — for example Moldavia, Uakraine, and Armenia, plus Georgia and Lithuania, who pulled the plug in 1990?

A problem of course, was that UEFA were still recognising only one body in Moscow. So Koloskov changed his mind . . . and became president of the Russian FA who will select the team for Euro 92 in Sweden and be the successor of the ex-USSR in the 1994 World Cup preliminaries. "The King is dead — long live the King!"

In this case a crown has been saved but the same King will be sitting on the throne in Moscow and at table in Switzerland.

Rival Kavzarechvili and his would-be Football Association of Russia were badly wrong-footed, despite the understood support of the Boris Yeltsin Government.

Declared

Reaction was swift in the Ukraine.

They kept to their obligations to CIS right up to the split, but felt that CIS had not done likewise vis-a-vis Kiev.

The Ukrainian FA, no longer obliged in any way to Moscow, declared that all their players, resident at home or elsewhere, now depend on the FA in Kiev, nowhere else.

A deputation met FIFA secretary Sepp Blatter in Switzerland, and he said there would be no difficulty in recognising independence for the country in football matters, as over 100 nations had done so politically.

This visit leaves open the question of how clubs in the new leagues will be qualified for the European Cups, but it got in the first blow for the Ukraine before Koloskov's visit to Switzerland a few days later. He was meanwhile extolling the virtues of his new Russian League and hastily appointing Simonian of Moscow Spartak as vice-president and Rodionov as general secretary.

Russia will have their own professional League, as will Ukraine, White Russia and others with Koloskov saying: "We model ourselves on the example of the Football League in England!"

Whether he meant Football League or Premier League may have been lost in translation, but the Russians will start this month with their own new set-up. The referees are to have their own separate association, for the first time.

Dynamo down . . . Stoichkov of Barcelona (right) beats Kiev's Tsveiba.

UKRAINE

KIEV SEEM OUT OF IT

KIEV DYNAMO'S home defeat by Barcelona ruined much of the optimism and preparation for the final phase of the semi-final group in the Champions' Cup.

Training camps in Stuttgart in January, Bari in February and at home before the crucial tie were all in vain and the team's chances of getting to the Wembley final seem to have gone.

Coach Anatoly Puzach had been optimistic, despite the number of players he has lost in recent times.

Wanted

Dynamo's officials, however, have not been idle, and with the new Ukranian League getting under way have recruited Kovtun, a keeper from Kharkov, an offensive midfielder, Volotiok, from Lugansk, Rostov's Echenko, and another Russian Nikulin from Novosibirsk.

Sukiassian, an Armenian, and Kvitkauskas, a Lithuanian, also are on the Kiev wanted list in what will be virtually a new team.

The last survivor of the 1986 Cup-winners' Cup team, Pavel Yakovenko, is still going strong, but the side could only draw 1-1 in the Ukrainian Cup with Skala Stryi, an amateur side.

Skipper Akhrik Tsveiba admitted after the game: "Barcelona had been on the team's mind and we did not show what we can do."

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ROMANIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

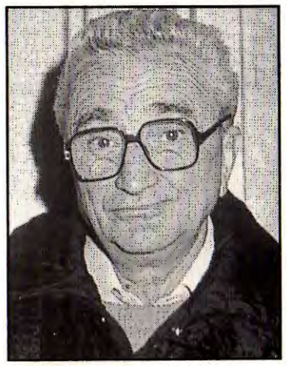
DINU BACK AS THE BOSS

FAILURE to qualify for Sweden was the beginning of the end for national manager Mircea Radulescu, and his resignation hardly a surprise.

The 44-year-old Cornel Dinu was expected to be the new man for the 1994 World Cup campaign, and he was duly elected by the FRF's Committee.

Only two members voted against the appointment of Dinu, former Secretary of State for Youth and Sport, who will now be back in a track suit.

He may take on Mircea Lucescu as his No. 2 or in a consultancy role, though the latter is now in management in Brescia.



Radulescu . . . has resigned.

Running

There may have been little or no alternative but to give Dinu the job. Other possibles were unavailable, notably Emerich Jenei, currently across the road in Hungary, and Anghel Iordanescu, having a spell in Cyprus running Anorthosis Famagusta — certainly a change from the successful late 1980's with Steaua Bucharest in the Champions' Cup.

Dinu, a law graduate, fluent in Italian and French as well as on the football field where he gained 75 full caps for Romania, has been given the task of choosing and setting up his team of back-room boys but the final decision remains in the hands of the FRF's officials.

He has to choose quickly and have his staff confirmed in post very soon, for Romania's World Cup qualifying group goes into action in May with matches with the Faroe Islands and Wales.

Whether Romania's returned libero Belodedic, orignally a Serb, will be available is a question FRF President Sandu was in Belgrade to discuss. Belodedic never gave up his Romanian citizenship on moving to Red Star and now seems likely to return to his "Home" colours, naturally as Belodedici!

He is likely to reappear for Romania in the April 8 friendly with Latvia in Bucharest. This return to international football is an important test for Dinu, who was watching Belodedici in Red Star's European group match just before he selected his squad for the warm-up with the Baltics.

ROMANIAN FIXTURES UPDATE

29th MARCH
Dacia-Unirea v FC Brasov
Petrolul v Sportul S.
Rapid v Gloria B.
ASA v FC Arges
Electroputere v Univ. Craiova
Otelul v Steaua
FC Bacau v Poli. Timosoara
Dinamo v FC Farul
Corvinul v FC Inter

4th APRIL
Univ. Craiova v FC Bacau
Poli. Timosoara v Dinamo
FC Farul v Corvinul
Rapid v Dacia-Unirea
FC Brasov v ASA
FC Arges v Otelul
Steaua v Electroputere
Gloria B. v Sportul S.
FC Inter v Petrolul

12th APRIL
Otelul v FC Brasov
ASA v Rapid
Dacia-Unirea v Gloria B.
Electroputere v FC Arges
Dinamo v Univ. Craiova
FC Bacau v Steaua
Corvinul v Poli. Timosoara
Petrolul v FC Farul
Sportul S. v FC Inter

19th APRIL
FC Arges v FC Bacau
Steaua v Dinamo
Univ. Craiova v Corvinul
Dacia-Unirea v ASA
Rapid v Otelul
FC Brasov v Electroputere
FC Farul v Sportul S.
Poli. Timosoara v Petrolul
Gloria B. v FC Inter

26th APRIL
FC Bacau v FC Brasov
Otelul v Dacia-Unirea
Electroputere v Rapid
ASA v Gloria B.
Dinamo v FC Arges
Petrolul v Univ. Craiova
Corvinul v Steaua
Sportul S. v Poli. Timosoara
FC Inter v FC Farul

29th APRIL
Rapid v FC Bacau
FC Brasov v Dinamo
FC Arges v Corvinul
ASA v Otelul
Dacia-Unirea v Electroputere
Univ. Craiova v Sportul S.
Steaua v Petrolul
Gloria B. v FC Farul
Poli. Timosoara v FC Inter

10th MAY
Corvinul v FC Brasov
FC Bacau v Dacia-Unirea
Dinamo v Rapid
Electroputere v ASA
Otelul v Gloria B.
Petrolul v FC Arges
FC Inter v Univ. Craiova
Sportful S. v Steaua
FC Farul v Poli. Timosoara

13th MAY
ASA v FC Bacau
Dacia-Unirea v Dinamo
Rapid v Corvinul
Otelul v Electroputere
FC Arges v Sportul S.
FC Brasov v Petrolul
Gloria B. - Poli. Timosoara
Univ. Craiova v FC Farul
Steaua v FC Inter

24th MAY
Sportul S. v FC Brasov
Corvinul v Dacia-Unirea
Petrolul v Rapid
Dinamo v ASA
FC Bacau v Otelul
Electroputere v Gloria B.
FC Inter v FC Arges
Poli. Timosoara v Univ. Craiova
FC Farul v Steaua

31st MAY
Electroputere v FC Bacau
Otelul v Dinamo
ASA v Corvinul
Rapid v Sportul S.
Dacia-Unirea v Petrolul
Gloria B. v Univ. Craiova
Steaua v Poli. Timosoara
FC Arges v FC Farul
FC Brasov v FC Inter

7th JUNE
Gloria B. v FC Bacau
FC Farul v FC Brasov
Sportul S. v Dacia-Unirea
FC Inter v Rapid
Petrolul v ASA
Corvinul v Otelul
Dinamo v Electroputere
Poli. Timosoara v FC Arges
Univ. Craiova v Steaua

14th JUNE
FC Bacau v Dinamo
Electroputere v Corvinul
ASA v Sportul S.
Otelul v Petrolul
Steaua v Gloria B.
FC Arges v Univ. Craiova
FC Brasov v Poli. Timosoara
Rapid v FC Farul
Dacia-Unirea v FC Inter

17th JUNE
Corvinul v FC Bacau
Gloria B. v Dinamo
Univ. Craiova v FC Brasov
FC Farul v Dacia-Unirea
Poli. Timosoara v Rapid
FC Inter v ASA
Sportful S. v Otelul
Petrolul v Electroputere
Steaua v FC Arges

21st JUNE
Dinamo v Corvinul
Electroputere v Sportul S.
FC Bacau v Petrolul
FC Arges v Gloria B.
Rapid v Univ. Craiova
FC Brasov v Steaua
Dacia-Unirea v Poli. Timosoara
ASA v FC Farul
Otelul v FC Inter

CZECHOSLOVAKIA BY BOB VAUGHAN

New help for Macala

"A" and "B" friendlies with England in Prague and Ceske Budejovice are followed by another pre-World Cup qualifying series spring warm-up, if that is the word, with Germany at the end of April.

This will be played at the Rosicky Stadium in the Strahov, probably the largest sports complex anywhere.

The last time the Germans played there was in 1958, when Fritz Walter & Co went down 3-2 in what proved a forerunner to a World Cup match in Sweden that summer.

Operating

Sadly, there will be no Sweden for the Czechs and Slovaks this year, but manager Macala will be "shaking down" for the campaign to put his team on the road to US '94.

Speculation has been rife and there is not much more time for experiment.

Macala needs time and resources to travel rather more, have greater opportunity to see possibles operating abroad, and attend conferences and learning sessions.

Perhaps the FA had this in mind when setting up a new agency — GDK Sport M, to deal with marketing, promotions and publicity and provide players, clubs and coaches with an advisory service.

The second half of the league campaign began with wins for the top four.

Leaders Slovan collected full points at Ceske Budejevoice's Dynamo Stadium, attracting a crowd of 7,813. Goals by Timko and Dubovsky to one by Fujdiar were enough.

Ostrava also won 2-1 away, after Slavia had taken the lead through Binic. The crowd was 14,435, the best of the day.

Sparta and Olomouc, the European representatives, also won, so there was no change at the top.

Lower down there was worse news for the continuingly ailing Dukla side, now renamed FC.

Just over 2,000 passed through the gates to see Hradec, fellow strugglers, win through a goal in each half.

Cheb, currently in last place, overcame Banska Bystrica 2-1 thanks to a Novotny penalty and a 68th-minute goal by midfielder Sedivy.

All in all it has been a much better six months for the country's football, with Sparta and Sigma performing well in Europe, gates for important domestic games on the up, a more interesting championship, and the nationaol team promising to benefit from the experience of those playing abroad.

Off the field, however, organisation and finance need improving if professional soccer is going to thrive.

Not easy at a time when spending money for sport is very limited and more weighty matters are in people's minds.

Sigma's Sindelar (right) beats Real's Rocha.

FINLAND BY PENTTI HIETANEN

Harri stirs them up

THE newly-promoted Myllykosen Pallo (MyPa) are a threat to the traditional hierarchy of the League.

Ambitious young coach Harri Kampman has an aggressive transfer policy which has clearly stirred other clubs.

MyPa landed a big fish when they lured the League's best player, Jari Litmanen, away from HJK Helsinki. Other signings include former national team skipper Esa Pekonen, Janne Makela (IlveAs), Mika Viljanen (Kuusysi), Janne Lindberg (Haka) and Julla Turunen (Kuopio PS).

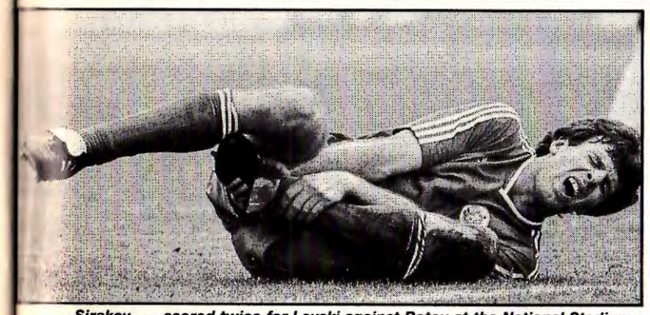
"Established clubs claim that we are trying to buy our way to the title, but we have done everything by the book," Kampman claims.

His raids certainly made champions Kuusysi nervous, and they quickly countered by signing last season's top scorer, Kimmo Tarkkio from Haka.

First Division club Porin Pallo-Toverit have a new name: FC Jazz, which refers to Pori's big jazz music festivals.

Tarkkio . . . has signed for Kuusysi.

BULGARIA BY BOB VAUGHAN



Sirakov . . . scored twice for Levski against Botev at the National Stadium.

PRESIDENTS FACING PROBLEMS

THE most important event off the field, and just before action resumed on it, was the gathering of the 18 First and 18 Second Division club presidents to discuss details of the professional league set-up.

The agenda for decision and action at once included the question of current season transfers, over which the presidents got themselves in a nice old mess.

Outstanding

All outstanding transfer money had to be paid by February 21 otherwise the players involved would be suspended. The day came and went but the 60 players whose transfers had not been paid were not banned.

The BFU indicated that the decision had been "an attack on the right to work" of players, and was invalid, and they recommended clubs to sort out the transfers among themselves or go to court.

When the championship got under way again Levski had to play in the National Stadium, because their own ground was still under repair. Nevertheless 10,000 turned up to see Skrenov, their former favourite, now in the colours of Botev, waltz through the home defence to be brought down for a penalty.

A poor pass enabled Sirakov to equalise and so it remained until the last minute. Sirakov had already hit a post with one penalty but he managed to net a second, the third in the match, to give Levski the points.

That left them one behind their metropolitan rivals, CSKA, playing next door in their own stadium, who won by the same score against relegation threatened Dobrudja.

CSKA fielded what looked like their Veteran XI. Valov was in goal, back from FK Austria Vienna and BFC Dynamo Berlin, Diakov was right-back, Stoyanov in attack, and former adidas Golden Boot winner and current coach Petar Jekov was up front.

Two-goal newcomer Metkov, signed from Lokomotive Sofia, ran midfield, scoring to quell a Dobrudja rally during which Valov saved a penalty. So CSKA ran out narrow winners.

ESTONIA BY PENTTI HIETANEN

PIIR STRUGGLES AGAINST CASH THREAT

ESTONIA, who are due to play in the same World Cup qualifying group as Scotland, are in a dire need of cash.

The Estonian FA have virtually no funds left, and if the situation does not change, they will not be able to fulfil their World Cup away fixtures.

The cost of one away trip is estimated to be around 50,000 dollars.

Estonia's national coach is Uno Piir, a 62-year-old who has been involved with football for over 40 years, first as a player and then as a coach.

Piir has named a squad of 40, but 15 of them are Russians, and there are strong elements who will try to prevent them from representing the state, which has only just regained independence.

A lot will depend on the new controversial law of nationality, which if accepted will grant citizenship to non-Estonians who have lived more than two years in the country and speak the language. Most national players come from FC Flora of Tallinn, a full-time club backed by a local chemistry factory.

Estonia's progress also is hindered by winter — there are no full-scale indoor arenas in the country — and Piir recently had to take his squad to Finland to train on a full-length pitch.

Nothing

In spite of all the problems, however, nothing can kill the optimism of the three Baltic states.

They all now operate their own leagues and hope that successful matches in the World Cup could earn some of the players professional contracts abroad and bring in much-needed revenue.

For the first time the three states contested the Baltic Cup.

Predictably, it was won by Lithuania, with Latvia second.

"Nice competition — gives you a medal every time," says Piir.

HUNGARY BY BRIAN O'SULLIVAN

ONE POINT SPLITS TOP SIX TEAMS

Kovacs . . . on loan to Kispest-Honved.

FERENCVAROS gave the leaders Vac only their second League defeat when the 15-round spring season began.

Peter Deszainik, the forward brought from Kazinbarcika in the Second Division, scored two goals in the second half of a 3-1 win.

The result tightened the contest at the top where a point separates the first six teams — Vac and Kispest-Honved, the defending champions, have 21 and are follwed by UTE, Ferencvaros, Siofok and Videoton on 20.

Ferencvaros beat Veszprem 2-0 in a match replayed after the former appealed over the MLSV ruling that they fielded more than the permitted number of three foreign nationals.

The timing of citizenship for those Hungarians from the Transylvanian area of Romania, granted by President Goncz at the same time as the match was played, was at the centre of the dispute.

Eliminating

The programme will be played on every weekend until the final round on June 13 and, as with last season, the final three rounds will have all matches starting at the same time on the same day.

Six First Division clubs failed to reach the two-leg last-16 round of the Hungarian Cup, all being eliminated by clubs of inferior status, and Veszprem needed penalties to reach the last 16 after eliminating Balmazujvaros, from the Tisza group of Division Three! Kalman Kovacs has returned to his former club, Kispest-Honved, on loan until the end of the season, from Auxerre, where he has played since the 1989-90 season.

Kovacs was true to his essentially positive nature and was in fine form, scoring one goal and making the other for Istvan Pisont, in the Cup game with Csepel.

Kispest won this on penalties, after a 2-2 draw, but a quarter-final place is not assured after they won only 1-0 in the first leg at home against Pecs MSC.

Emerich Jenei's first match as national team manager was a friendly against Austria in Budapest where Hungary's only other internationals will be in the spring — against England on May 12 and against Iceland, in a World Cup qualifying group fixture on June 6.

HUNGARIAN FIXTURES UPDATE

4th APRIL
Diosgyor v BVSC-MAVEP
Vac v Vasas
Ujpest v Pecs MSC
Tatabanya v Videoton
Siofok v Haladas
MTK-VM v Raba ETO
Veszprem v Kispest-Honved
Ferencvaros v Zalaegerszeg.

11th APRIL
Zalaegerszeg v Siofok
Pecs MSC v Vasas
BVSC-MAVEP v Vac
Videoton v Veszprem
Raba ETO v Tatabanya
Kispest-Honved v Ferencvaros
Ujpest v MTK-VM
Haladas v Diosgyor.

18th APRIL
MTK-VM v Pecs MSC
Vasas v BVSC-MAVEP
Vac v Haladas
Tatabanya v Ujpest
Veszprem v Raba ETO
Siofok v Kispest-Honved
Ferencvaros v Videoton
Diosgyor v Zalaegerszeg.

25th APRIL
Ujpest v Veszprem
Haladas v Vasas
Zalagerazeg v Vac
MTK-VM v Tatabanya
Videoton v Siofok
Raba ETO v Ferencvaros
Kispest-Honved v Diosgor
Pecs MSC v BVSC-MAVEP.

2nd MAY
Ferencvaros v Ujpest
Tatabanya v Pecs MSC
BVSC-MAVEP v Haladas
Diosgyor v Videoton
Vasas v Zalaegerszeg
Siofok v Raba ET0
Vac v Kispest-Honved
Veszprem v MTK-VM.

9th MAY
Zalaegerszeg v BVSC-MAVEP
Kispest-Honved v Vasas
Tatabanya v Veszprem
Viedoton v Vac
Raba ETO v Diosgyor
Pecs MSC v Haladas
Ujpest v Siofok
MTK-VM v Ferencvaros

16th MAY
Veszprem v Pecs MSC
Siofok v MTK-VM
Diosgyor v Ujpest
Vac v Raba ETO
Vasas v Videoton
BVSC-MAVEP v Kispest-Honved
Haladas v Zalaegerszeg
Ferencvaros v Tatabanya.

23rd MAY
Ujpest v Vac
MTK-VM v Diosgyor
Kispest-Honved v Haladas
Videoton v BVSC-MAVEP
Raba ETO v Vasas
Pecs MSC v Zalaegerszeg
Tatabanya v Siofok
Veszprem v Ferencvaros

30th MAY
Diosgyor v Tatabanya
Ferencvaros v Pecs MSC
Siofok v Veszprem
Vasas v Ujpest
BVSC-MAVEP v Raba ETO
Zalaegerszeg v Kispest-Honved
Haladas v Videoton
Vac v MTK-VM.

6th JUNE
Raba ETO v Haladas
Tatabanya v Vac
MTK-VM v Vasas
Videoton v Zalaegerszeg
Pecs MSC v Kispest-Honved
Ferencvaros v Siofok
Veszprem v Diosgyor
Ujpest v BVSC-MAVEP.

13th JUNE
Siofok v Pecs MSC
Vasas v Tatabanya
Vac v Veszprem
Haladas v Ujpest
Zalaegerszeg v Raba ETO
Kispest-Honved v Videoton
Diosgyor v Ferencvaros
BVSC-MAVEP v MTK-VM

Carlos Aguilera wheels away after scoring Genoa's first goal against Liverpool at Anfield.

ITALY BY PADDY AGNEW

FORZA GENOA

Bagnoli's battlers take a place in history

"GENOA GO DOWN IN HISTORY" read the front page headline on *Gazzetta Dello Sport*, summing up the enthusiasm and sense of pride with which the Italian soccer world greeted Genoa's elimination of Liverpool from the UEFA Cup.

Perhaps, for the likes of *Gazzetta* it was just as well that Genoa came along and did the unthinkable.

Were it not for them, things might have been getting a bit quiet (relatively), around here.

After all, Milan's impressive dominance of the League table and the national team's non-appearance at this summer's European Championship in Sweden have robbed the soccer media of two of their habitual best-selling (and talking) points — namely, who's going to win the league and who should play for the Azzurri.

Given that everyone now accepts that Milan have won the championship and that the Italian team are still in a period of grace under new boy Arrigo Sacchi, the European campaigns of Genoa, Torino and Sampdoria have become the main stories of this Italian springtime.

Curiously

Curiously the two men at the centre of the Genoese success stories, coaches Vujadin Boskov of Sampdoria and Osvaldo Bagnoli of Genoa, may both be leaving the clubs at the end of the season, and for different reasons.

Every dog on the Genoa quayside has known for months that Boskov's future with the reigning Italian champions depends on the Champions' Cup.

Put simply, if Sampdoria do not lift the most prestigious trophy in European club soccer at Wembley next May, then Boskov will be looking for a new job, probably with AS Roma.

Given Samp's current form, however, it is not beyond the bounds of possibility that Boskov could still be with the club next September.

The 2-0 home defeat of Anderlecht in Champions' Cup semi-final Group A not only atoned for a ridiculous, injury time 3-2 loss in the away leg, but also confirmed that there has been no fluke about Sampdoria's unbeaten run (apart from Anderlecht) since early December.

Sampdoria's disastrous early start may have cost them the championship, but it has had no other long term damaging effects.

At the moment, apart from Milan, it is difficult to name a more formidable or attractive Italian club side.

Bagnoli's position at Genoa is different.

The club do not want him to leave. Rather, it is the coach, tired of the cross-Italy journey from his Verona family home, who has been tempted by the siren lights of Internazionale. The Verona-Milan trip is a great deal easier than travelling to Genoa.

Cauldron

If the Genoa success story goes all the way to the UEFA Cup Final, however, Bagnoli might rethink his long-term plans.

Neither man will be out of work for long. They are among a handful of tried and proven winners in the immensely stressful cauldron that is the Italian championship.

Not mind you that Milan appear to be much stressed by the business of dominating that same cauldron, almost to the point of boredom.

When the unfortunate Ruud Gullit went down with a cartilage problem in his left or "other" knee (his previous problems were with his right knee), it represented just about the first serious problem that Milan have had since the first month of the season.

By the time you read this, Gullit's immediate fate will have been decided. Suffice to say that delaying an operation on the knee helps Milan now, but jeopardises Gullit's European Championship prospects.

The injury, however, now makes it seem certain that Milan will start next season with as many as five foreigners, if not six.

Gullit, Marco Van Basten and Frank Rijkaard will be joined by the Croat Zvonimir Boban (currently on loan to Bari) and Dejan Savicevic of Red Star Belgrade. Along with a certain Jean-Pierre Papin, who keeps on saying that he is "99 per cent certain" to be playing for Milan next season.

That is, if he gets a game, given that only three foreign players are allowed on the 16-player team sheet.

With Milan cruising unbeaten on top of the league, despite everything that a revitalised Roberto Baggio at second-placed Juventus can throw at them, much attention has been focussed on the other end of the table.

Combative

Cagliari, Bari and Verona appear to be locked into a desperate battle for one survival place.

The pressure of that battle began to tell at Verona where luckless coach Eugenio Fascetti was booted out to make way for Swede Nils Liedholm, following a 2-0 away defeat by Lazio.

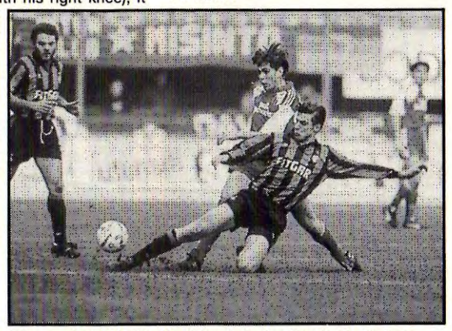
Liedholm's first and biggest task will be to maximise the injury-plagued Serb, Dragan Stojkovic, a player of great technical brilliance but of questionable physical fortitude.

While Liedholm tries to patch together the Verona quilt, the Pole Zibi Boniek can take pride in having dragged Bari from last to fourth last.

In truth, Bari's revival owes as much to the combative qualities of the excellent David Platt and to the steady progress of Boban and the Serb Robert Jarni as to Boniek.

Ascoli and Cremonese sem certain to be relagated, but Michaelangelo Rampulla, at least, did his bit in an effort to keep the Cremona club's hopes alive.

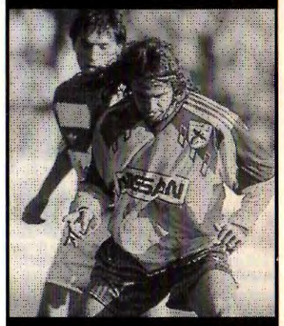
He moved up for a corner and headed an injury-time equaliser against Atalanta to become the first GOALKEEPER ever to score in a Serie A match.



Internazionale's Berti slides in to tackle Bari's Boban.

SWITZERLAND BY ARTHUR ROTMIL

Change follows change



AFTER nearly three months off, Swiss football restarted the campaign with the championship play-offs.

The top eight clubs have taken half the points total from the qualification phase with them, and will fight out the title and UEFA Cup places.

Leaders Lausanne miss international goalkeeper Stefan Huber, who has had another knee operation. And there are more problems for Grass-hoppers, now without Koller, De Vicente, Wiederkehr and German striker Peter Kozle (above).

Third-placed Sion announced that Argentine manager Enzo Trossero will be leaving at the end of the season. His place will be taken by one of his players, Jean-Paul Brigger, a former international striker.

Cancelled

Financial support from Italian clubs Lazio and Brescia enabled St Gallen to sign Chilean Fabian Estay and Brazilian Jair Kaye de Brito. The Swiss will not have to pay loan fees, while the Italians are paying most of the players' wages. They could recall the pair within the Italian transfer period.

Xamax Neuchatel, now managed by the former national team boss Uli Stielike, are hoping for at least a UEFA Cup spot. Stielike already has plenty of problems: no fewer than ten players were injured, so a training camp in Cyprus had to be cancelled.

The three Egyptians, Hany Ramzy and the brothers Hossam and Ibrahim Hassan, returned from leave late — as usual. Nonetheless, Stielike does not regret the exchange of jobs with Roy Hodgson, who has taken over the national team. "We can both be more satisfied than before," he says.

Hodgson took his men for a training stint and a couple of friendlies in the United Arab Emirates, to gain first-hand impressions.

The most interesting personality in the party was libero Alain Geiger (Sion), now captain and hoping to revive his international career.

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Results

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 12

Feb 12 = Faro — intl friendly
Portugal 2 (Oceano 3, Cesar Brito 80)
Holland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Diaz Vega (Spa).
Portugal: Vitor Baia — Joao Pinto I (Paulo Sousa 83), Leao, Helder, Paulo Torres, Peixe — Vitor Paneira, Oceano (Paulinho 27), Domingos (Cesar Brito 60) — Rui Barros (Joao Pinto II 60), Figo.
Holland: Van Breukelen (Menzo 46) — Blind (Fraser 77), Van Tiggelen, R Koeman, E Koeman, Wouters (Bosz 46), Van't Schip, Winter, Kieft, Bergkamp (Viscaal 46), Rob Witschge (Taument 46).

● A quick goal from Oceano, heading home a Paulo Torres corner, set Portugal on the road towards a minor consolation for their European championship elimination. Holland lacked attacking penetration without their Milan trio of Gullit, Van Basten and Rijkaard and Portugal threatened several more times in the first half. First Domingos hit the bar after 21 minutes then it took a last-ditch tackle from Ronald Koeman to halt Oceano bursting through. In the 55th minute Aron Winter wasted Holland's best chance after skilful work by Gaston Taument. After that Portugal regained control and only stout defending by Koeman and Danny Blind kept them at bay.

Feb 12 = Adana — intl friendly
Turkey 1 (Orhan 18)
Finland 1 (Juha Karvinen 75pen)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Dellwig (Ger).
Turkey: Hayrettin — Ogun, Turham, Tugay, Recep, Mehmet, Unal, Oguz, Orhan, Feyyaz, Aykut (Faruk 65).
Finland: Huttunen — Sulonen, Remes, Eriksson (Tegelberg 35), Heikkinen, Karvinen, Vanhala (Nyssonen 80), Helin, Tauriainen, Hjelm, Sumiola (Ruhanen 70).

● Finland deserved their draw, defending sensibly and attacking with good sense after a neat move between Unal Karaman and Aykut Kocaman opened the way for Orhan Cikirci to open the scoring. Handball by Turhan produced a penalty for Finland from which Karvinen shot a late equaliser which disappointed the home crowd in the 5th of January Stadium. Turkey were now 18 months without a victory and the position of coach Sepp Piontek suddenly looked vulnerable.

Feb 12 = Athens — intl friendly
Greece 1 (Tsluhidis 49)
Romania 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Nikakis (Gre).
Greece: Papadopulos — Agoroyiannis (Alexandris 75), Kolitsidakis, Manolas, Mitsibonas, Tsaluhidis, Marku (Karagiannis 85), Giotsas (Donis 46), Dimitriadis, Tursunidis, Tsiantakis (Kirtsekis 70).
Romania: Lung — A Popescu, Munteanu, Sandoi, Costantinovic, Mihali — Moga (Zamfir 46), Gerstenmaier (Raduca 58), Haganu, Panduru (Ion 70), Kandar.

● Tsaluhidis headed home a Tursunidis cross early in the second half, before an internationally inexperienced Romanian side had regained their concentration. Greece were without stars Saravakos and Apostolakis while Romania missed regulars Petrescu and Raducioiu.

Feb 12 = Tel-Aviv — intl friendly
Israel 1 (Drieks 36)
CIS 2 (Piatnitski 14, Kiriakov 48)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Cuate (Aus).
Israel: Ginzburg — A Cohen, Amar, Hadad, Hachmed, Shelac — Ivanir (Nimny 46), Banin, Atar (Y Cohen 46), Zohar (Bercovich 63) — Drieks.
CIS: Cherchesov (Kharin 46) — Nikiforov, Chernishev, Tetradze, Chistikov, Sergeyev, Lediakov, Chadadze, Piatnitski, Mandreko, Kiriakov.

● France manager Michel Platini was present to take an early look at his Israeli World Cup qualifying rivals. But it is doubtful whether he learned much since Israel lined up seven members of their Olympic team and lacked exiled professionals such as Rosenthal (Liverpool) and Ohana (ex-Mechelen). The CIS attacked from the start. Kiriakov made the first goal for Piatnitski, Ginzburg's saves kept Israel in the game and then Drieks equalised in a rare breakaway. Three minutes into the second half Kiriakov took advantage of defensive confusion to grab the winner.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Feb 19 = Wembley — intl friendly
England 2 (Alan Shearer 44, Gary Lineker 74)
France 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 58,773. **Ref:** Schmidhuber (Ger).
England: Woods — Rob Jones, Pearce, Keown, Wright, Walker, Webb, Clough, Geoff Thomas, Shearer, Hirst (Lineker 46).
France: Rousset — Amoros, Angloma, Boli, Casoni, Blanc, Deschamps, Fernandez (Durand 71), Papin, Perez (Simba 71), Cantona.

● England ended the French unbeaten run which had lasted 19 matches over three years. Southampton newcomer Alan Shearer, a debut star, opened the scoring just before half-time with a goal which would have done credit to rested skipper Gary Lineker after Wright flicked on a Clough centre. France played some excellent first-half football but lacked penetration against an England defence in which another newcomer, Martin Keown, had a tidy time of it. David Hirst made way for Lineker at half-time. Lineker duly collected his 47th international goal but only after he had provided Thomas with a huge gap which the Crystal Palace man failed dismally to exploit. France manager Michel Platini was not too upset. He said: "In football you need luck and we did not have it. But losing our record does not worry or concern me. Perhaps it is as well it is out of the way. This result meant nothing in terms of the match we must play in the European championship. That is another game, another day."

Feb 19 = Dublin/RDS Showground — intl friendly
Republic of Ireland 0
Wales 1 (Mark Pembridge 77)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,100.
Ref: Mumenthaler (Swi).
Rep. Ireland: Bonner — Morris, Irwin, O'Leary, Daish, Townsend (McLoughlin 46), Phelan (Aldridge 55), Byrne, Keane, Cascarino (Quinn 67), Sheedy.
Wales: Southall — Phillips, Bowen, Aizlgwood, Young (Bodin 64), Symons, Horne, Speed (Blackmore 46), Saunders (Neilson 86), Hughes, Pembridge (Hodges 78).

● Arsenal veteran David O'Leary shoulder the blame for the blunder which helped condemn the Irish Republic to their first defeat in Dublin in 26 matches — since, in fact, Jack Charlton's debut as Ireland manager back in March 1986. A long clearance from Neville Southall bounced just right for Pembridge to score. Yet Wales might already have been ahead. Only fine saves from Bonner barred the way to Horne and Saunders in the first half. Southall was in similarly inspired form at the other end, in particular with a save from Tony Cascarino in the 32nd minute.

Feb 19 = Glasgow/Hampden — intl friendly
Scotland 1 (Ally McCoist 11)
Northern Ireland 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 13,650. **Ref:** Worrall (Eng).
Scotland: Smith — McKimmie (Durie 46), D Robertson, McPherson, Gough, Malpas, Strachan, McClair (Collins 66), McCoist (Gallacher 46), McAllister, K Wright (J Robertson 76).
N Ireland: Wright — Donaghy, Worthington, Taggart (S Morrow 85), McDonald, Magilton, Black, K Wilson (O'Neill 81), Clarke (Dowie 46), D Wilson, Hughes.

● Ally McCoist headed the only goal early on in a match which Scotland coach Andy Roxburgh described as "a useful exercise" but did not live up to fans' expectations. The match was not a good advertisement for a reintroduction of the home internationals.

Feb 19 = Cesena — intl friendly
Italy 4 (Roberto Baggio 36, 85, Roberto Donadoni 42, Pierluigi Casiraghi 47)
San Marino 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 18,353. **Ref:** Martino (Swi).
San Marino: Benedettini — Conti, B Muccioli, M Mazza, Gobbi, Guerra, Manzaroli, Bonini, P Mazza (Munaroli 84), Francini (Gennari 74), Bacciocchi (Pasolini 46).
Italy: Zenga (Pagliuca 46) — Mannini (Carrera 46), Maldini, De Napoli, Costacurta, Baresi (Ferri 46), Bianchi (Lentini 46), Donadoni (Zola 46), Casiraghi, Baggi, Evani.

● A hastily-arranged friendly saw Italy missing Gianluca Vialli because of a one-game suspension. Later the suspicions were raised that the San Marino game was set up so Vialli would be 'free' to play Germany at the end of March. Juventus' Baggio and Casiraghi were the architects of victory, contributing three goals between them.

Feb 19 = Valencia — intl friendly
Spain 1 (Fernando Hierro 86)
CIS 1 (Igor Kiriakov 73)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Leduc (Fra).
Spain: Zubizarreta — Luis Manuel, Sanchis, Giner — Michel (Geli 46), Hierro, Amor, Vizcaino (Manolo 85), Villaroya — Butragueno (Fernando 46), Fonseca.
CIS: Kharin — Galiamin (Mostovoi 46; D Kuznetsov 77), Oleg Kuznetsov, Tsveiba — Kanchelskis, Aleinikov (Lediakov 55), Kulkov, Piatnitski, Shalimov — Kiriakov, Kolivanov.

● Wind and rain marred a match in which neither side created many openings. The first half was even but Spain attacked the more in the second half against a CIS side which included both Russian and Ukraine players. CIS took the lead with an angled drive by Kiriakov only for Spain's Hierro, from Real Madrid, to snatch a headed equaliser with four minutes to go.

Feb 19 = Cuscatlan, San Salvador — intl friendly
El Salvador 2 (Carlos Castro 18, Juan Guerrero 55)
United States 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 45,000. **Ref:** Gonzalez (ES).
El Salvador: Raul Garcia — Carcano (Orellana 54), Meza, Estrada, Lazo, Castro, Ricardo Garcia (Melendez 89), Rivera, menjivar (Gamez 87), Palacios (Guerrero 52), Gonzalez (Coreas 21).
US: Dodd — Ibsenm Kmosko, Balboa, DeBrito, Benedict (Chung 51), Quinn, Perez, Sorber, Acosta (Jaguande 70), Strouse.

● El Salvador took full advantage of the inexperience of an experimental young American side to record their first senior win over the US. The hosts dominated the match and might have won by a larger margin had US keeper Mark Dodd not stopped a Marlon Menjivar penalty in the 47th minute. El Salvador, with President Alfredo Cristiani in the crowd, went ahead when a Castro shot ricocheted off defender Balboa then bounced off Dodd. Menjivar returned the ball to the centre where Castro headed in unmarked. A Menjivar cross opened the way for substitute Guerrero to head No 2. The best US chance was a free kick from El Salvador-born Hugo Perez which produced a good save from El Salvador keeper Raul Garcia.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Feb 22 — Tunis — intl friendly
Tunisia 1 (Ben Tahar 49)
Nigeria 1 (Aminu 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Sendid (Alg).

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Feb 26 = Tunis — intl friendly
Tunisia 2 (Rouissi 30, Thierry Genaux o.g. 76)
Belgium 1 (Luis Oliveira 56)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 35,000. **Ref:** Naciri (Mor).
Tunisia: El Ouer — Gharbi, Ben Yahia, Chihi, Okbi — ben Neji (F Rouissi 68), Mahjoubi, Selimi, Hichri — L Toussi, Tlemcani.
Belgium: Preud'homme — Genaux, Albert, Plovie (Nilis 46), Borkelmans — Degrijse, F Van der Elst, Medved (Wilmots 46), Versavel (Walem 65) — Beverens, Oliveira.

● Belgium were without Italy-based Enzo Scifo (Torino) and Georges Grun (Parma) so manager Paul Van Himst used the opportunity to blood 18-year-old Standard defender Thierry Genaux and the Brazilian-born Anderlecht striker Luis Oliveira. Both got their names on the scoresheet: Genaux with the own goal which turned out to be Tunisia's winner and Oliveira with the Belgians' consolation.

Feb 26 = Estadio Castelao, Fortaleza — intl friendly
Brazil 3 (Antonio Carlos 26, Rai 73pen, 79)
United States 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Viera Vilanova (Bra).
Brazil: Carlos — Roberto Carlos, Antonio Carlos, Ronaldo (Torres 78), Luiz Carlos Winck (Cafu 69) — Rai, Cesar Sampaio (Wilson Mano 81), Luiz Henrique — Elivelton, Muller (Ivair 69), Bebeto (Valdeir 69).
US: Meola — Balboa, Clavijo (Ibsen 83), Savage, Michallik, Murray, Quinn, Ramos, Henderson (Acosta 75), Perez (Kinnear 81), Vermes (Stewart 46).

● Brazil ran out comfortable winners in the end but it was not until skipper Rai scored twice in the last 17 minutes that victory was secure. Brazil dominated the first half but the Americans revived with spirit in the second half and earned an ovation from the crowd. Ramos and Perez, in midfield, were the pick of a US which appeared worn down as much by the heat as by the varied skills of the Brazilians. An Elivelton corner provided Antonio Carlos with the opening goal; Rai converted a penalty for No 2, then shot home a free kick for No 3.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

Mar 3 = Tel-Aviv — intl friendly
Israel 2 (Berkovitz 27, Avi Cohen 39)
Cyprus 1 (Pittas 80 pen)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 2,000. **Ref:** Hartmann (Hun).
Israel: Ginzburg (Rafi Cohen 46) — Avi Cohen, Amar, Shelah (Sharabi 76), Mussah — Shoham (Hadar 46), Banin, Berkovitz, Nimny (Zohar 63), Hazan — Yaron Cohen (Iwanir 63).
Cyprus: Christofi (Patarides 46) — Pani, Nicolau, Const Constantinou, Geo Costantinou — Charalambos, Costa (Stigenis), Pittas, Anedreou (Savva) — Ioannu (Elija), Soterin.

SUNDAY, MARCH 8

Mar 8 = Mexico City — intl friendly
Mexico 4 (Aguirre 7, Valdez 37, De la Torre 57pen, Bernal 85)
CIS 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 34,000.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 11

Mar 11 = Valladolid — intl friendly
Spain 2 (Beguiristain 38, Hierro 75)
United States 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Rosa Santos (Por).
Spain: Zubizarreta (Buyo 46) — Sanchis (Geli 46), Luis Manuel, Giner — Michel (Eusebio 46), Hierro, Vizcaino (Amor 80), Toni — Manolo (Goikoetxea 60), Fonseca, Beguiristain.
US: Meola — Savage, Balboa, Doyle, Michallik, Sorber, Quinn, Caligiuri (Urban 68), Perez (Acosta 83) — Ramos, Vermes (Stewart 46).

● Spain deserved to win a low-key match. Vicente Miera, Spain's manager, was absent owing to an operation on a stomach ulcer. Assistant Chus Pereda was thus in charge for the night.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18

Mar 18 = Casablanca — intl friendly
Morocco 3 (Ahmed Bahja 4, Said Roqbi 25, Said Chiba 81)
United States 1 (Hugo Perez 58)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Sar (Mauritania).
Morocco: El Brazi — Khalfi, El Hadrioui, El Khalej (Archane 71), Moudakkar, Azim, Samadi, Ouzouggate, Bahja (Chiba 46), Roqbi, Loumari.
US: Dodd (Feuer 71) — Michallik, Doyle, Balboa, Savage, Quinn, Acosta (DeBrito 71, Sorber, Kinnear, Perez, Stewart (Ibsen 46).

● The Americans, tiring at the end of a three-week trip which had begun in Central America, went behind after only four minutes when Bahja scored after a keeper Dodd punched out a free kick. When Balboa cleared a shot off the line 21 minutes later Roqbi pounced to shoot home the loose ball. The US missed injured skipper Bruce Murray but forced a way back into the game in the second half through Hugo Perez's eighth goal for his country by hitting a free kick through the defensive wall. The Americans' second half substitutes included the RWD Molenbeek goalkeeper Ian Feuer as well as 19-eear-old Zak Ibsen, fresh out of UCLA. All their effort proved in vain, however, as Chiba extended the Moroccans' lead after having seen a free kick and a follow- up shot blocked in quick succession.

OTHER MATCHES

Feb 11 (Loule, Algarve): Portugal U23/ Olympic XI 1 (Roche 56), US U23/O 1 (Snow 68).
Feb 12: Rep Ireland B 2 (Fenlon 44, Kelly 50), Denmark B 0.
Feb 13 (Evoine, France): US U23/O 6 (Snow 8, 13, Burns 16, Moore 42, Allnutt 63, Henderson 88), Zaglebie Lubin 1.
Feb 15 (Loudun, France): US U23/O 1 (Jones 48), Vac Izzo 0.
Feb 18 (Loftus Road, London): England B 3 (Merson 17, Dumas og 33, Stewart 70), France B 0. **(Edinburgh):** Scotland U21 3 (Booth 20, 38, 46), Denmark U21 0.
(Sabadell): Spain U21 2, Germany U21 0.
Feb 19 (Monaco): Monaco 5 (Clement 27, 57, Granon 48, Debah 65, Rodriguez 73), US U23/O 2 (Snow 41, 60). **(Izmir):** Turkey U21 0, Italy U21 1 (Bertarelli 10).
Feb 20 (Grimaud): French Golfe Selection 0, US U23/O 4 (Lapper 2, Reyna 20, Moore 48, G Lagos 75).
Feb 22 (Frejus): Frejus 1 (Clapson 56), US U23/O 0.
Feb 25: Germany U12 2 (Poschner 4 pen, Kranz 86), Poland U21 1 (Juskowiak 1).
Feb 26 (Massa): Italy Serie C XI 2 (Zauli 10, Palladini 55), US U23/O 1 (Snow 38).
Mar 4 (Caserta): Italy Serie B 2 (Jelsi 23, Bresciani 42), English Second Division 1 (Kitson 33).
Mar 11: Cambridge 4 (Raynor 8, 16, Norbury 29, Clayton 65), Canada U23/O 0.
(Zurich): Switzerland Reds 1 (B Sutter 34), Switzerland Blues 0. **(Altemburg):** Wettingen 1 (Borraccini 83), Switzerland U21 2 (Marcolli 55, Barberis 88).
Mar 17 (Nations Cup; Coliseum, Los Angeles): US U23/O 3, S Korea U23/O 1; Honduras U23/O v El Salvador.
Mar 19 (Nations Cup; Coliseum, Los Angeles): Honduras U23/O v S Korea U23/ O; US U23/O 2, El Salvador 2.

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

QUARTER-FINALS, FIRST LEGS
Mar 10 (Bochum):
Germany 1 (Nils Schmaler 39), **Scotland 1** (Creaney 31).
Mar 11 (Utrecht):
Holland 2 (Roest 22, Taument 54), **Sweden 1** (Furseth 24).
Mar 11 (Aalborg):
Denmark 5 (Frandsen 10, Molnar 22, 28, P Moller 24, 42), **Poland 0.**
Mar 11:
Czechoslovakia 1 (Necas 86pen), **Italy 2** (Melli 9, Kotulek o.g. 55).

EURO LEAGUE RESULTS

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEB 9

BELGIUM Weekend

Molenbeek 0, Mechelen 2 (Emenalo 32 o.g., Eijkelkamp 34). **Att:** 8,500.
FC Liege 1 (Monos 7), **Kortrijk 1** (Hofkens 65). **Att:** 6,000.
Lierse 6 (Pauwels 35, 58, Van Kerckhoven 44, Rekdal 65, 69, Simmes 72), **Aalst 0.** **Att:** 5,000.
Beveren 1 (Soudan 14), **Standard 1** (Bettagno 41). **Att:** 15,000.
Charleroi 3 (Wuyts 12, Silvagni 30, Moury 80), **Genk 0. Att:** 8,000.
Club Brugge 2 (Amokachi 59, Booy 65), **Anderlecht 0. Att:** 25,000.
Waregem 2 (Desloover 18, Balogh 65), **Cercle Brugge 2** (Weber pen 50, Karacic 64). **Att:** 3,000.
Ekeren 3 (Schmoller 11, 21, Herreman 65), **Gent 0. Att:** 5,000.
Lokeren 2 (Myyry 58, Meszaros 83), **Antwerp 0. Att:** 4,500.

ENGLAND Midweek

FA Cup — 4th Round
Bristol Rovers 1, Liverpool 1
Notts County 2, Blackburn Rovers 1
Wrexham 0, West Ham Utd 1
Derby County 3, Aston Villa 4
Ipswich Town 3, Bournemouth 0
Manchester Utd 2, Southampton 2
(Southampton win on pens)
Norwich City 2, Millwall 2
Oxford Utd 2, Sunderland 3
Sheffield Utd 3, Charlton 1
Sheffield Weds 1, Middlesbrough 2

LEAGUE CUP — QUARTER-FINAL REPLAY
Nottingham F. 4, Crystal Palace 2

Weekend
Chelsea 1 (Cascarino 86),
Crystal Palace 1 (Whyte 36). **Att:** 17,810.
Coventry City 0, Liverpool 0. Att: 21,540.
Everton 0, QPR 0. Att: 18,212.
Luton Town 2 (Preece 67, Harford 82),
Norwich City 0. Att: 8,554.
Manchester Utd 1 (McClair 12),
Sheffield Weds 1. Att: 47,074.
Notts County 0, Arsenal 1 (Smith 19). **Att:** 11,221.
Oldham Athletic 2 (Bernard 18, Barlow 87), **Leeds Utd 0. Att:** 18,409.
Sheffield Utd 4 (Lake 8, Gayle 18, Deane 44, Whitehouse 81), **Manchester City 2** (Curle pen 21, Hill 47). **Att:** 22,000.
Wimbledon 2 (Fashanu 24, Phelan 87),
Aston Villa 0. Att: 5,534.

LEAGUE CUP — SEMI-FINAL, 1ST LEG
Nottingham F 1, Tottenham 1

FRANCE Weekend

Auxerre 3 (Calderaro o.g. 9, Martins 59, Ferreri 90), **Metz 0. Att:** 5,000.
Montpellier 0, Toulouse 0. Att: 9,000.
Monaco 2 (Passi 1, Weah 51), **St Etienne 0. Att:** 3,500.
Nantes 1 (N'Doram 88), **Lens 0. Att:** 5,804.
Lille 0, Paris SG 0. Att: 8,000.
Le Havre 1 (Vercruysse 40), **Nimes 1** (Moreau 56). **Att:** 7,277.
Lyon 3 (Billong 4, 70, Bouafia 21), **Rennes 1** (Delamontagne 75). **Att:** 11,978.
Nancy 3 (Vairelles 10, 45, Zavarov 57), **Caen 0. Att:** 6,756.
Cannes 0, Toulon 1 (Guerit o.g. 3). **Att:** 5,000.
Marseille 2 (Papin 6, 83), **Sochaux 2** (Thomas 29, Madar 87). **Att:** 20,000.

CONTINUED OVER

GERMANY Weekend

Karlsruher SC 1 (Glesius 78), **Wattenscheid 2** (Buckmasler 17, Tschiskale 66). **Att:** 11,000.
Dynamo Dresden 1 (Gutschow 3), **FC Nurnberg 2** (Wuck 57, Golke 81). **Att:** 15,000.
VfL Bochum 0, Eintracht Frankfurt 0. Att: 22,000.
Werder Bremen 0, Borussia Mg. 0. Att: 15,710.
Fortuna Dusseldorf 1, (Rahn 60), **Borussia Dortmund 1** (Helmer 35). **Att:** 30,000.
Schalke 1 (Mihajlovic 87), **Bayern Munich 1** (Wohlfarth 53). **Att:** 70,200.
Koln 0, Hamburg SV 0. Att: 20,000.
Stuttg. Kickers 1 (Kula 49),
Kaiserslautern 1 (Hotic 38). **Att:** 18,000.
Hansa Rostock 2 (Schlotterbeck 27, Spies 49), **VfB Stuttgart 0. Att:** 12,000.
MSV Duisburg 1 (Nijhuis 47), **Bayer Leverkusen 2** (Thom 19, Jorginho 83). **Att:** 18,000.

GREECE

OFI Crete 0, Korinthos 0
Panathinaikos 2, AEK Athens 0
Panachaiki 2, Panionios 1
Olympiakos 4, Aris Salonika 0
Heraklis 1, Doxa Drama 1
PAOK 0, Ethnikos 1
Larissa 2, Xanthi 0
Apollon 0, Athinaikos 0
Pierikos 3, Serres 1

HOLLAND Weekend

Fortuna Sittard 0, MVV 0. Att: 6,100.
Roda JC 0, Groningen 0. Att: 5,233.
VVV 3 (Haan 7, Venetiaan 17, 47),
SVV/Dordrecht 2 (Sion 27, Breetveld 90). **Att:** 2,700.
Volendam 4 (Berghuis 28, Peters 59, Steur 72, 85). **Utrecht 2** (Van der Ark 42, Roest 74). **Att:** 3,200.
Willem II 2 (Van Geel 75, Vincent 88),
Den Haag 0. Att: 5,500.

CUP — 4TH ROUND

Ajax 2 (Pettersson 20, Van Loen 117),
PSV 1 (Kieft 45). **Att:** 32,222.
Sparta 2 (Vurens 40, Dennis de Nooijer 89),
Vitesse 2 (Eijer 43; Roelofen 51). **Att:** 4,500.

ITALY Weekend

Sampdoria 1 (Mancini pen 22),
Bari 1 (Soda 4). **Att:** 25,000.
Parma 2 (Melli pen 39, Grun 90),
Napoli 1 (Careca pen 21). **Att:** 24,700.
Torino 2 (Casagrande 7, Scifo pen 84),
Cremonese 0. Att: 28,000.
Foggia 3 (Rambaudi 29, Baiano 31, Shalimov 37), **Fiorentina 3** (Batistuta 24, 55, 76). **Att:** 20,500.
Ascoli 0, Genoa 2 (Bortolazzi 66, Aguilera 84). **Att:** 7,000.
Verona 1 (Rossi 23), **Internazionale 0. Att:** 28,330.
AC Milan 1 (Van Basten 6), **Juventus 1** (Casiraghi 26). **Att:** 69,915.
Atalanta 1 (Stromberg 56), **Lazio 0. Att:** 20,000.
AS Roma 0, Cagliari 0. Att: 49,684.

PORTUGAL Weekend

Farense 1, Salgueiros 1
Penafiel 0, Boavista 0
Uniao Madeira 4, Gil Vicente 1
Beira-Mar 1, Vit. Guimaraes 2
Benfica 2, Sporting 0
Sp. Braga 1, Estoril 3
Famalicao 2, Torriense 0
FC Porto 3, Maritimo 1
Chaves 1, Pacos de Feir. 1

SCOTLAND Midweek

SCOTTISH CUP — 3RD ROUND
Dundee 1, Stirling Albion 1

3RD ROUND REPLAYS
Kilmarnock 1, Meadowbank Thistle 1
(Meadowbank win on pens)
Motherwell 4, Ayr Utd 1
Dunfermline 3, Forfar Athletic 1
Hearts 3, St Mirren 0
Stirling Albion 0, Dundee 1

Weekend

Aberdeen 0, Hibernian 1 (Weir 88). **Att:** 9,500.
Celtic 2 (Creaney 24, 65), **Airdrie 0. Att:** 18,845.
Hearts 1 (Bannon 75), **Dundee Utd 0. Att:** 10,516.
Motherwell 1 (Arnott 10), **Dunfermline 2** (McPharland 9, French 29). **Att:** 6,375.
St Johnstone 1 (Wright pen 84), **Falkirk 1** (McAllister 19). **Att:** 5,418.
St Mirren 1 (Torfasson 44), **Rangers 2** (McCoist 4, Mikhailichenko 23). **Att:** 16,638.

SPAIN

CUP — QUARTER-FINALS, 1ST LEG
Athletic Bilbao 0, Atletico Madrid 3
Sporting Gijon 2, Logrones 0
Sevilla 0, La Coruna 1
Real Madrid 2, Valencia 1

Weekend

Barcelona 1 (Salinas 89), **Sevilla 0. Att:** 55,000.
Athletic Bilbao 2 (Ayarza 15, Urrutia 40),
Sporting Gijon 0. Att: 30,000.
Valladolid 2 (Cesar Gomez 5, Alberto 67),
Real Madrid 1 (Llorente 66). **Att:** 25,000.
Cadiz 2 (Arteaga 20, Fall 58), **Logrones 0. Att:** 9,000.
Tenerife 1 (Pizzi 64), **La Coruna 0. Att:** 20,000.
Valencia 1 (Catali 25), **Albacete 1** (Quique 37). **Att:** 50,000.
Osasuna 1 (Urban 76), **Burgos 1** (Urban 76). **Att:** 14,000.
Atletico Madrid 3 (Sere o.g. 40, Futre 43, Manolo 51), **Mallorca 0. Att:** 25,000.
Oviedo 1 (Carlos 56), **Espanol 0. Att:** 15,000.
Zaragoza 1 (Franco 10), **Real Sociedad 3** (Oceano 42, 90 pen, Lumbreras 76). **Att:** 25,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEB 16

BELGIUM Weekend

Anderlecht 5 (Nills 1, 75, Rutjes 18, Bosman 33, Oliveira 56), **FC Liege 1** (Foguenne 82). **Att:** 12,000.
Standard 6 (Vos 6, 35, Betagno 14, 34, Pister 25, Wilmots 62), **Waregem 3** (Abeels 15, Balogh 26, 75). **Att:** 13,000.
Mechelen 2 (Versavel 24, Eijkelkamp 61),
Charleroi 0. Att: 7,600.
Genk 1 (Busuttil 60), **Lierse 2** (Goossen 71, Brocken 87). **Att:** 8,000.
Antwerp 2 (Vincent 48, Claessen pen 51),
Ekeren 8 (Hofmans 15, 34, 56, 58, 78, Schmoller 17, Sabbadini 36, Herreman 3). **Att:** 6,000.
Gent 4 (Dauwen 9, Vandenbergh 41, 71, Viscaal 81), **Beveren 0. Att:** 5,000.
Cercle Brugge 2 (Frenay 7, Karacic 47),
Molenbeek 2 (Beuckelaers 16, Van Veldhoven 20). **Att:** 1,200.
Aalst 0, Club Brugge 1 (Dziubinski 87). **Att:** 7,000.
Kortrijk 0, Lokeren 1 (Myyry 10). **Att:** 3,000.

ENGLAND Midweek

FA CUP — 4TH ROUND REPLAY
Liverpool 2, Bristol Rovers 1

League
Arsenal 1 (Merson 63), **Norwich City 1** (Fox 58). **Att:** 22,352.
Chelsea 1 (Townsend 74),
Southampton 1 (Horne 57). **Att:** 7,148.

LEAGUE CUP — QUARTER-FINAL
Middlesbrough 1, Peterborough Utd 0

Weekend

FA Cup — 5th Round
Chelsea 1, Sheffield Utd 0
Portsmouth 1, Middlesbrough 1
Norwich City 2, Notts County 0
Sunderland 1, West Ham Utd 1
Nottingham Forest 4, Bristol City 1
Ipswich Town 0, Liverpool 0
Swindon Town 1, Aston Villa 2
Bolton Wanderers 2, Southampton 2

League
Arsenal 7 (Smith 13, Campbell 71, 81, Limpar 73, 89, Merson 83, Wright 85),
Sheffield Weds 1 (Worthington 45). **Att:** 26,805.
Manchester City 4 (White 14, 48, Hill 47, Heath 77), **Luton Town 0. Att:** 22,137.
Oldham Athletic 2 (Holden 27, Jobson 75), **QPR 1** (Wegerle 70). **Att:** 13,092.
Tottenham Hotspur 0, Crystal Palace 1 (McGoldrick 82). **Att:** 19,000.

FRANCE Weekend

Nimes 0, Monaco 1 (Rui Barros 10). **Att:** 6,078.
Toulouse 1 (Hyravy 39), **Nancy 0. Att:** 4,582.
Caen 3 (Rio 1, 54, Paille 32), **Cannes 1** (Langers 53). **Att:** 6,085.
Toulon 1 (Rodriguez pen 65), **Lyon 0. Att:** 3,000.
Lens 2 (Roger Boli 5, Gillot 60),
Marseille 1 (Basile Boli 24). **Att:** 48,912.
Auxerre 2 (Cocard 45, Guerreiro 47),
Nantes 2 (Ouedec 3, 39). **Att:** 7,000.
Rennes 2 (Delamontagne 38, Shala 56),
Lille 3 (Assdourian 36, 73, Sauvaget 53). **Att:** 4,749.
Sochaux 1 (Thomas pen 34),
Montpellier 1 (Divert 85). **Att:** 4,000.
Metz 0, Paris SG 0. Att: 7,983.
St Etienne 4 (Mendy 1, Haon 21, Camara 79, 89), **Le Havre 0. Att:** 10,815.

GREECE Weekend

Korinthos 1, AEK Athens 2
Panionios3, OFI Crete 1
Aris Salonika 0, Panathinaikos 1
Doxa Drama 3, Panahaiki 0
Ethnikos 1, Olympiakos 1
Xanthi 1, Heraklis 0
Athinaikos 1, PAOK 1
Serres 2, Larissa 1
Apollon 2, Pierikos 1

GERMANY Weekend

Wattenscheid 0, Werder Bremen 1 (Neubarth 68). **Att:** 7,000.
Duisburg 1 (Notthoff 36), **Stuttg. Kickers 1** (Vollmer 12). **Att:** 12,000.
Nurnberg 1 (Golke 90), **VfL Bochum 0. Att:** 25,000.
Vfb Stuttgart 3 (Kogl 35, Walter 49, 80),
Fortuna Dusseldorf 1 (Allofs 73). **Att:** 15,000.
Bayern Munich 1 (Wohlfarth 62), **Dynamo Dresden 2** (Scholz 40, Zander 82). **Att:** 16,000.
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Chapuisat 28, Reinhardt 74), **Schalke 0. Att:** 52,000.
Borussia Mg 1 (Max 16), **Hansa Rostock 1** (Schlotterbeck 47). **Att:** 15,000.
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Kirsten 71, 76),
Karlsruher 0. Att: 8,000.
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Falkenmayer 52),
Koln 2 (Giske 1, Ordenewitz 43). **Att:** 22,000.
Hamburg SV 0, Kaiserslautern 1 (Kuntz 75). **Att:** 14,000.

HOLLAND Weekend

Fortuna Sittard 3 (Samuel 24, De Jong 39, Boogers 72), **FC Twente 1** (Mulder 71). **Att:** 2,500.
MVV 3 (Visser 37, Benneker 54, Meijer 87),
SVV/Dordrecht 1 (Sion 43). **Att:** 3,000.
PSV 4 (Hoekstra 27, 40, Ellerman 45, 66),
VVV 0. Att: 21,950.
Feyenoord 5 (Kiprich 20, 27, 80, Blinker 23, Sabau pen 33), **Vitesse 0. Att:** 16,075.
RKC 0, Roda JC 1 (Arnold 35). **Att:** 2,300.
Groningen 3 (Meijer 31, Van Duren 39, Wilson 57), **Den Haag 1** (Valk 72). **Att:** 13,248.
De Graafschap 0, Ajax 1 (Pettersson 38). **Att:** 10,360.
Utrecht 1 (Oosterhuis 57), **Sparta 1** (Vurens 74). **Att:** 4,000.
Volendam 0, Willem II 0. Att: 2,700.

ITALY

CUP — QUARTER-FINALS, 1ST LEG
AC Milan 2, Torino 0
Sampdoria 1, AS Roma 0
Parma 2, Genoa 0
Juventus 1, Internazionale 0

Weekend

Lazio 1 (Stroppa 60), **Ascoli 1** (Benetti 90). **Att:** 35,000.
Juventus 2 (Schillaci 33, Baggio 51),
Atalanta 1 (Piovanelli 49). **Att:** 40,000.
Cagliari 2 (Fonseca 38, 52), **Foggia 2** (Shalimov 37, Rambaudi 63). **Att:** 20,000.
Fiorentina 0, AC Milan 0. Att: 41,660.
Cremonese 0, Parma 1 (Dezotti o.g. 19). **Att:** 11,700.
Genoa 1 (Aguilera 46), **AS Roma 1** (Hassler 83). **Att:** 25,000.
Internazionale 0, Sampdoria 0. Att: 38,100.
Napoli 0, Torino 1 (Fusi 79). **Att:** 45,000.
Bari 2 (Terracenere 2, Pin o.g. 39),
Verona 1 (Serena 56). **Att:** 34,900.

PORTUGAL Weekend

Boavista 2, Salgueiros 0
Gil Vicente 2, Penafiel 0
Vit. Guimaraes 1, Uniao Madeira 1
Lisbon 3, Beira-Mar 1
Estoril 0, Benfica 2
Torriense 0, Braga 0
Maritimo 3, Famalicao 1
Pacos de Feir. 0, FC Porto 3
Chaves 0, Farense 0

SCOTLAND Weekend

Scottish Cup — 4th Round
Celtic 2, Dundee Utd 1
Clydebank 1, Hibernian 5
Morton 2, Meadowbank 2
Huntly 1, Airdrie 3
Dunfermline 1, Hearts 2
Rangers 2, Motherwell 1
Falkirk 0, Dundee 0
Caledonian 2, St Johnstone 2

SPAIN Midweek

Mallorca 2 (Milojevic 78, Galvez 88),
Logrones 1 (Peyato 10). **Att:** 13,000.

Weekend

Sporting Gijon 2 (Luhovy 4, Iodanov 54),
Sevilla 1 (Jimenez 79). **Att:** 19,000.
Real Madrid 5 (Hagi 22, 51, 53, Hierro 65, Hugo Sanchez 77), **Athletic Bilbao 0. Att:** 85,000.
Logrones 0, Valladolid 0. Att: 10,500.
La Coruna 1 (Uralde 69), **Cadiz 1** (Quevedo 37). **Att:** 20,000.
Albacete 1 (Zalazar pen 65), **Tenerife 1** (Pizzi 22). **Att:** 14,000.
Burgos 2 (Narciso 1, Nando o.g. 32),
Valencia 1 (Tamayo o.g. 27). **Att:** 10,000.
Mallorca 1 (Fradera 60), **Osasuna 1** (Urban pen 43). **Att:** 15,000.
Espanol 1 (Kuznetsov 65), **Atletico Madrid 2** (Manolo 11, Schuster 15). **Att:** 35,000.
Real Sociedad 2 (Kodro pen 10, Uria 85),
Oviedo 1 (Vinals 32). **Att:** 16,000.
Zaragoza 0, Barcelona 4 (Koeman 30, pen 73, Bakero 62, Laudrup 85). **Att:** 30,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, FEB 23

BELGIUM Weekend

CUP — QUARTER-FINALS, 1ST LEG
Beveren 0, Mechelen 0
Gent 2, St Niklaas 1
Aalst 0, Standard 1
Lommel 1, Antwerp 0

League
Charleroi 2 (Brogno 17, Zetterberg 18), **RWD 0. Att:** 13,000.

ENGLAND Weekend

Aston Villa 1 (Regis 52),
Oldham Athletic 0. Att: 20,509.
Luton Town 2 (Stein 6, Harford 23),
Sheffield Utd 1 (Bryson 10). **Att:** 9,003.
Manchester Utd 2 (Hughes 11, 51),
Crystal Palace 0. Att: 46,347.
Norwich City 3 (Woodthorpe 67, Fleck 70, 90), **Liverpool 0. Att:** 20,411.
Nottingham Forest 1 (Sheringham 1),
Chelsea 1 (Allen 74). **Att:** 24,095.
QPR 1 (Ferdinand 46), **Notts County 1** (Bartlett 48). **Att:** 8,300.
Sheffield Weds 2 (Palmer 80, Anderson 87), **West Ham Utd 1** (Small 15). **Att:** 26,150.
Southampton 0, Coventry City 0. Att: 13,719.
Tottenham Hotspur 1 (Stewart 54),
Arsenal 1 (Wright 89). **Att:** 33,124.
Wimbledon 2 (Fashanu 2, Earle 43),
Manchester City 1 (Sheron 55). **Att:** 5,802.
Everton 1 (Jackson 65), **Leeds Utd 1** (Keown o.g. 57). **Att:** 19,248.

FRANCE

CUP — 1ST ROUND PROPER
Sochaux 0, Monaco 3
Metz 0, Auxerre 2
Rennes 1, Nantes 0
Marseille 1, Bordeaux 0
Martigues 0, Montpelier 2
Istres 1, Lyon 1
(Istres won on penalties)
Valenciennes 2, Lille 1
Sete 1, Cannes 2
Angouleme 0, Nancy 2
Boulogne 1, Paris SG 4
Deveze-Beziers 1, Toulon 3
Poitiers 0, Toulouse 2
Noisy-le-Sec 0, St Etienne 4
Vire 0, Le Havre 3
Colmar 0, Lens 3
Pont-l'Abbe 0, Caen 2
Choisy-le-Roi 0, Nimes 2
Ales 0, Perpignan 0
(Ales won on penalties)
Bourges 2, Laval 1
Chateauroux 0, Guingamp 2
Mulhouse 2, Rouen 0
Pau 2, La Roche-sur-Yon 1
Nice 1, Usjoa Valence 2
Angers 1, Thouars 0
Dunkerque 3, Saint-Die 1
Chateau-Thierry 2, Ajaccio 3
Cambrai 0, Red Star 3
Troyes 2, Saint Priest 0
Lorient 3, Joue-les-Tours 1
Marcq-en-Baroeul 0, Saint Omer 4
Massy 1, Brive 0

GERMANY Weekend

VfL Bochum 0, Bayern Munich 5 (Wohlfarth 8, 33, 50, Ziege 19, 55). **Att:** 17,500.
Karlsruher 2 (Struckmann 71, Rolff 87),
MSV Duisburg 2 (Schmarov 42, Bremser 86). **Att:** 11,000.
Werder Bremen 1 (Legat 11), **Bayer Leverkusen 1** (Kirsten 18). **Att:** 13,800.
Hansa Rostock 1 (Dowe 4),
Wattenscheid 1 (Moser 45). **Att:** 9,000.
Fortuna Dusseldorf 1 (Rahn 8),
Borussia Mg 1 (Salou 9). **Att:** 18,500.
Schalke 0, VfB Stuttgart 1 (Sammer 73). **Att:** 40,300.
Dynamo Dresden 0, Borussia Dortmund 0. Att: 20,000.
Koln 4 (Giske 22, Ordenewitz 32, 45, Baumann 80), **FC Nurnberg 0. Att:** 18,000.
Stuttg. Kickers 1 (Keim 52),
Hamburg SV 1 (Waas 24). **Att:** 11,000.

GREECE Weekend

Panachaiki 2, Xanthi 0
Olympiakos 1, Athinaikos 0
Heraklis 5, Serres 0
PAOK 2, Pierikos 1
Larissa 0, Apollon 0

HOLLAND Weekend

VVV 0, RKC 0. Att: 2,528.
Willem II 3 (Vincent 41, Sylla 60, Werdekker 90), **Twente 1** (Zwijnenberg 78). **Att:** 5,200.
Den Haag 4 (Van der Laan 1, 15, 72, Van Eijkeren 50), **De Graafschap 0. Att:** 2,500.
Ajax 1 (Pettersson 27), **Utrecht 0. Att:** 14,000.
SVV/Dordrecht 1 (Gorre 45), **PSV 2** (Kieft 64, 86). **Att:** 3,500.
Vitesse 1 (Vermeulen 66), **MVV 2** (Hofman 43, Meijer 66). **Att:** 4,000.
Volendam 0, Feyenoord 1 (Sabau 61). **Att:** 8,300.
Sparta 3 (Valk 71, Szalma o.g. 88, Van der Gaag 90), **Fortuna Sittard 2** (De Jong 35, Anton Janssen 68). **Att:** 3,000.

Midweek

VVV 0, PSV 2 (Vanenburg 76, Bwalya 90). **Att:** 5,528.
SVV/Dordrecht 0, Sparta 0. Att: 900.
Roda JC 1 (Arnold 84), **Vitesse 1** (Laamers 46). **Att:** 5,000.

ITALY Weekend

Torino 1 (Policano 59), **Cagliari 0. Att:** 32,579.
Atalanta 1 (Bianchezi pen 41),
Cremonese 1 (Rampulla 90). **Att:** 16,536.
AS Roma 1 (Voller 79), **Fiorentina 3** (Batistuta 35, 69, Dunga 90). **Att:** 47,333.
Parma 2 (Agostini 29, 54), **Foggia 0. Att:** 23,624.
Bari 0, Juventus 0. Att: 55,264.
Internazionale 1 (Matthaus pen 25),
Lazio 0. Att: 41,394.
Genoa 0, AC Milan 0. Att: 37,299.
Verona 0, Napoli 1 (Silenzi 66). **Att:** 15,288.
Ascoli 0, Sampdoria 1 (Silas 45). **Att:** 9,175.

PORTUGAL Weekend

Farense 0, Boavista 0
Saiguieros 1, Gil Vicente 0
Penafiel 0, Vit. Guimaraes 1
Uniao Madeira 1, Sporting 5
Beira-Mar 1, Estoril 0
Benfica 0, Torriense 0
Sp. Braga 2, Maritimo 0
Famalicao 1, Pacos de Feir. 0
FC Porto 4, Chaves 0

SCOTLAND Weekend

Airdrie 0, St Johnstone 3 (Wright 33, 75, Maskrey 88). **Att:** 2,500.
Dundee Utd 2 (Cleland 59, Ferguson 70),
Motherwell 2 (Kirk 21, O'Donnell 88). **Att:** 4,746.
Dunfermline 0, St Mirren 0. Att: 3,389.
Falkirk v Hearts — *postponed.*
Hibernian 0, Celtic 2 (Nicholas 13, Creaney 27). **Att:** 16,163.
Rangers v Aberdeen — *postponed.*

SPAIN Weekend

Barcelona 1 (Laudrup 11), **Sporting Gijon 1** (Juanele pen 13). **Att:** 75,000.
Sevilla 1 (Rafa Paz 30), **Real Madrid 0. Att:** 58,000.
Athletic Bilbao 1 (De la Fuente 18),
Logrones 2 (Polster 27, Iturrino 70). **Att:** 35,000.
Valladolid 2 (Fonseca 83, Roberto Martinez 85), **La Coruna 0. Att:** 20,000.
Cadiz 1 (Quico 74), **Albacete 1** (Aquino 22). **Att:** 12,000.
Tenerife 4 (Antonio 3, Pizzi 36, Redondo 37, Pier pen 85), **Burgos 1** (Ayucar 83). **Att:** 20,000.
Valencia 1 (Leonard 29), **Mallorca 1** (Milojevic 59). **Att:** 25,000.
Osasuna 0, Espanol 1 (Luis 17). **Att:** 15,000.
Atletico Madrid 5 (Ferreira 3, Schuster 40, Moya 54, Vizcalno 78, 83), **Real Sociedad 1** (Kodro 45). **Att:** 46,000.
Oviedo 2 (Jankovic 29, Vinals 84),
Zaragoza 1 (Dario Franco 79). **Att:** 18,000.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MAR 1

BELGIUM Weekend

FC Liege 4 (Varga 6, Kruzen 41, Ikpeba 59, Giusto 65), **Aalst 1** (Zakkas 89). **Att:** 5,000.
Charleroi 1 (Zetterberg 54), **Cercle Brugge 0. Att:** 14,000.
Beveren 1 (Van Ham 82), **Antwerp 1** (Lehnhof 88). **Att:** 7,000.
Mechelen 0, Genk 0. Att: 8,400.
Lokeren 0, Anderlecht 1 (Nilis 84). **Att:** 14,00.
Ekeren 3 (Polley 29, 35, Tahamata 54),
Kortrijk 0. Att: 4,000.
Club Brugge 4 (Booy 5, Borkelmans 9, Amokachi 19, Verspaille 54), **Lierse 1** (Rekdal 73). **Att:** 9,000.
Molenbeek 1 (Van Ankeren 19),
Standard 0. Att: 15,000.
Waregem 2 (Balogh 1, Abeeels 56), **Gent 1** (Van der Linden pen 15). **Att:** 10,000.

ENGLAND Midweek

FA Cup — 5th Round replays
Middlesbrough 2, Portsmouth 4
West Ham 2, Sunderland 3
Southampton 3, Bolton 2
Liverpool 3, Ipswich Town 2

League
Notts County 1 (Craig Short 20),
Wimbledon 1 (Fashanu 76). **Att:** 6,198.
Crystal Palace 1 (Bright 19), **Luton Town 1** (Pembridge pen 51). **Att:** 12,109.
Manchester Utd 1 (Hughes 87), **Chelsea 1** (Donaghy o.g. 62). **Att:** 44,872.

Weekend

League Cup — Semi-final, 2nd leg
Tottenham 1, Nottingham Forest 2
(Forest win 3-2 on agg).

League
Chelsea 0, Sheffield Wednesday 3 (Wilson 5, Worthington 20, Williams 36). **Att:** 17,538.
Coventry City 0, Manchester Utd 0. Att: 23,967.
Crystal Palace 3 (Osborn 17, Bright 22, 65), **Norwich City 4** (Sutton 15, Newman 32, Polston 43, Goss 45). **Att:** 14,201.
Leeds Utd 2 (Cantona 59, Chapman 85), **Luton Town 0. Att:** 28,231.
Liverpool 0, Southampon 0. Att: 34,449.
Manchester City 2 (Quinn 3, White 75), **Aston Villa 0. Att:** 28,268.
Oldham Athletic 0, Wimbledon 1 (McGee 35). **Att:** 12,166.
Sheffield Utd 0, QPR 0. Att: 17,958.
West Ham 0, Everton 2 (Johnston 6, Ablett 63). **Att:** 20,976.

FRANCE Midweek

CUP — 1ST ROUND PROPER
Fesches-le-Chatel 0, Bastia 1

Weekend

Montpellier 0, Lens 0. Att: 13,000.
Monaco 2 (Fofana 14, Weah 66), **Caen 1** (Paille 2). **Att:** 3,500.
Nantes 0, Sochaux 0. Att: 15,000.
Paris SG 1 (Germain 11), **Rennes 0. Att:** 25,000.
Marseille 2 (Waddle 20, Pele 38), **Auxerre 0. Att:** 30,000.
Lille 1 (Frandsen pen 38), **Toulon 0. Att:** 6,000.
Le Havre 1 (Castets 78), **Toulouse 1** (Hyray pen 55). **Att:** 7,100.
Lyon 1 (Bouderbala 22), **Nimes 0. Att:** 13,500.
Nancy 0, St Etienne 2 (Etienne Mendy 21, Lambert 23). **Att:** 6,000.
Cannes 1 (Omam Biyik 48), **Metz 1** (Romano 17). **Att:** 2,000.

GREECE Midweek

Panionios 1, Korinthos 0
AEK Athens 3, Aris Salonika 1
Panathinaikos 2, Ethnikos 1

Weekend

Korinthos 0, Aris Salonika 1
Doxa Drama 0, Panionios 0
Ethnikos 1, AEK Athens 1
Xanthi 1, OFI Crete
Athinaikos 3, Panathinaikos 1
Serres 1, Panachaiki 0
Pierkos 2, Olympiakos 5
Apollon 1, Heraklis 0
PAOK 2, Larissa 1

GERMANY Weekend

Wattenscheid 4 (Neuhaus 13, Tschiskale 64, 68 Sane 71), **Fortuna Dusseldorf 1** (Thomas Allofs 17). **Att:** 6,000.
MSV Duisburg 0, Werder Bremen 0. Att: 15,000.
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Foda 17, Kirsten 67, Thom 79), **Hansa Rostock 0. Att:** 10,000.
Borussia Mg 1 (Criens 71), **Schalke 1** (Andreas Muller 89). **Att:** 34,000.
Borussia Dortmund 1 (Rummenigge 69),
VfL Bochum 1 (Uwe Wegmann 55). **Att:** 44,509.
VfB Stuttgart 1 (Buchwald 19), **Dynamo Dresden 1** (Zander 51). **Att:** 22,000.
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Andreas Moller 13, Jorn Anderson 59), **Hamburg SV 1** (Waas 67). **Att:** 26,000.
Nurnberg 3 (Golke 8, Heidenreich 11, Golke 73), **Kauserslautern 2** (Kuntz pen 54, Vogel 88). **Att:** 32,500.
Bayern Munich 0, Koln 0. Att: 32,000.
Karlsruher 3 (Metz pen 7, Schutterle 25, Scholi 39), **Stuttg. Kickers 1** (Kelm 69). **Att:** 14,000.

HOLLAND

Fortuna Sittard 0, Ajax 1 (Van 't Schip 73). **Att:** 7,100.
Volendam 2 (Clayton 36, pen 89), **SVV/Dordrecht 3** (Van Wattum 21, Breetveld 82, 85). **Att:** 2,300.
Groningen 1 (Huizingh 68), **Ajax 2** (Pettersson 72, Kreek 75). **Att:** 18,000.

ITALY Midweek

CUP — QUARTER-FINALS, 2ND LEG
Torino 1, AC Milan 1
(AC Milan win 3-1 on agg)
AS Roma 1, Sampdoria 1
(Sampdoria win 2-1 on agg)
Inter 1, Juventus 2
(Juventus win 3-1 on agg)
Genoa 1, Parma 2
(Parma win 4-1 on agg)

Weekend

Napoli 5 (Careca 7, Padovano 16, Francini 30, Padovano 61, Alemao 69), **Ascoli 1** (Ferrara o.g. 46). **Att:** 40,000.
AC Milan 3 (Van Basten pen 35, 37, 41),
Atalanta 1 (Bianchezi 9). **Att:** 70,000.
Cremonese 1 (Florjancic 8), **Bari 1** (Boban 63). **Att:** 9,000.
Juventus 3 (Baggio 15, 85, Di Canio 89),
Genoa 0. Att: 46,000.
Fiorentina 1 (Iachini 58), **Internazionale 1** (Fontolan 29). **Att:** 37,345.
Sampdoria 2 (Orlando 66, Mancini 90),
Parma 0. Att: 32,000.
Lazio 1 (Sosa 4), **AS Roma 1** (Hassler 70). **Att:** 55,000.
Foggia 1 (Kolyvanov 79), **Torino 1** (Scifo pen 4). **Att:** 20,000.
Cagliari 4 (Rossi o.g. 37, Gaudenzi 45, Napoli 53, Francescoli 70), **Verona 0. Att:** 25,000.

PORTUGAL Weekend

Gil Vicente 1, Boavista 3
Vit. Guimaraes 1, Saigulieros 0
Sporting 3, Penafiel 1
Estoril 2, Uniao Madeira 1
Torriense 1, Beira-Mar 0
Maritimo 0, Benfica 0
Pacos de Feir. 2, Sp. Braga 1
Chaves 2, Famalicao 0
FC Porto 2, Farense 0

SCOTLAND Midweek

League
Rangers 0, Aberdeen 0. Att: 38,513.

Scottish Cup — 4th Round replays
St Johnstone 3, Caledonian 0
Meadowbank 2, Morton 3

Weekend

Dundee Utd 2 (Paatelainen 26, 39), **Falkirk 1** (May 77). **Att:** 5,592.
Dunfermline 0, Hibernian 0. Att: 4,959.
Hearts 1 (Robertson pen 68), **Celtic 2** (Creaney 8, 33). **Att:** 20,863.
Motherwell 3 (Kirk 40, Cooper 54, McKinnon 72), **St Johnstone 1** (Grant 56). **Att:** 4,373.
Rangers 5 (Brown 12, Hateley pen 44, 49, pen 54, Rideout 79), **Airdrie 0. Att:** 40,568.
St Mirren 0, Aberdeen 2 (Mason 2, Smith 26). **Att:** 3,868.

SPAIN

CUP — QUARTER-FINALS, 2ND LEG
Valencia 0 v 0 Real Madrid
(Real Madrid win 2-1 on agg)
Atletico Madrid 1 v 0 Athletic Bilbao
(Atletico win 4-0 on agg)
Logrones 1 v 0 Sporting Gijon
(Sporting win 2-1 on agg)
La Coruna 3 v 1 Sevilla
(La Coruna win 4-1 on agg)

Weekend

Real Madrid 1 (Butragueno 43),
Sporting Gijon 0. Att: 65,000.
Logrones 1 (Garcia Pitarch 58), **Sevilla 0. Att:** 11,000.
La Coruna 0, Athletic Bilbao 0. Att: 18,00.
Albacete 3 (Aquino 25, Ollete 65, Juarez 83), **Valladolid 1** (Fonseca 76). **Att:** 14,000.
Burgos 1 (Ayucar pen 55),
Cadiz 1 (Baria 90). **Att:** 10,000.
Mallorca 0, Tenerife 2 (Chano 35, Borges 48). **Att:** 14,000.
Espanol 0, Valencia 0. Att: 18,000.
Real Sociedad 0, Osasuna 0. Att: 15,000.
Zaragoza 1 (Higuera 55),
Atletico Madrid 0. Att: 35,000.
Oviedo 0, Barcelona 2 (Stoichkov 55, Laudrup 67). **Att:** 18,700.

SWITZERLAND Weekend

Servette 1 (Dobrovolski 4), **Grasshoppers 2** (Bickel 75, Vega 79). **Att:** 9,600.
Neuchatel 0, Young Boys 1 (Kunz 90). **Att:** 11,200.
FC Zurich 2 (Di Matteo 55, Grassi 80),
Lausanne Sports 2 (Van den Boogaard 82, Herr 87). **Att:** 7,600.
St Gallen 3 (Bertelsen 6, 40 78), **Sion 2** (Gertschen 5, 31). **Att:** 8,800.

WEEK ENDING SUNDAY, MARCH 8

AUSTRIA Weekend

Play-offs
Austria Wien 1, Vorwarts Steyr 1
Austria Salzburg 0, FC Tirol 2
St Polten 2, Admira Wacker 1
Stahl Linz 1, Rapid Wien 0

BELGIUM Midweek

Antwerp 2 (Lehnhoff pen 75, 80),
FC Liege 0. Att: 6,500.

ENGLAND Midweek

Crystal Palace 0, Nottingham Forest 0. Att: 12,608.
Leeds Utd 0, Aston Villa 0. Att: 28,896.
Coventry City 0, Norwich City 0. Att: 8,549.

Weekend

Southampton 1 (Dowie 64), **West Ham 0. Att:** 14,548.
Everton 2 (Beardsley 3, 69), **Oldham Athletic 1** (Fleming 21). **Att:** 21,004.
Luton Town 1 (Oakes 66), **Crystal Palace 1** (McGoldrick 21). **Att:** 8,591.
QPR 4 (Ferdinand 19, 55, Wilson pen 38, Barker 87), **Manchester City 0. Att:** 10,779.
Sheffield Wednesday 1 (Anderson 83), **Coventry City 1** (Gallacher 66). **Att:** 23,959.
Tottenham Hotspur 1 (Allen 48),
Leeds Utd 3 (Wallace 36, Newsome 76, McAllister 77). **Att:** 27,622.
Wimbledon 2 (Fashanu 39, Earle 78),
Notts County 0. Att: 4,196.

LEAGUE CUP — SEMI-FINAL, 1ST LEG
Middlesbrough 0, Manchester Utd 0

FA Cup — 6th Round
Portsmouth I, Nottingham Forest 0
**Southampton 0, Norwich

GREECE Midweek

OFI Crete 1, Doxa Drama 0

Weekend
Korinthos 2, Ethnikos 0
Xanthi 3, Doxa Drama 0
Athinaikos 2, Aris Salonika 1
Serres 1, Panionios1
Pierikos 0, AEK Athens 1
Apollon 0, OFI Crete 0
Larissa 0, Panathinaikos 3
PAOK 2, Panachaiki 0
Olympiakos 2, Herakiis 0

GERMANY Weekend

Borussia Mg 1 (F. Schulz 83), **VfL Bochum 2** (Schwanke 19, Knoflicek 87). **Att:** 13,500.
Nurnberg 1 (Zarate 44), **Eintracht Frankfurt 3** (Yeboah 46, J. Anderson 50, Roth 90). **Att:** 48,800.
Werder Bremen 1 (Kohn 79), **Stuttg. Kickers 3** (Schwartz 18, Moutas 41, Marin 83). **Att:** 9,000.
MSV Duisburg v Fortuna — *postponed*
Karlsruher 2 (Schmarov 31, Scholi 55), **Hansa Rostock 1** (Spies 17). **Att:** 11,000.
Wattenschied v Dynamo Dresden — *postponed*
Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Kirsten 30, Jorginho 34), **Schalke 1** (Christensen 13). **Att:** 22,000.
Bayern Munich 2 (Wohlfarth 88, Thon 90), **Hamburg SV 0. Att:** 20,000.
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Chapuisat 30, Zorc 45, pen 51), **Kaiserslautern 1** (Kranz 85). **Att:** 52,000.
VfB Stuttgart 1 (Sverrisson 83), **Koln 0. Att:** 26,500.

HOLLAND Weekend

Willem II 0, Sparta 2 (De Getrouwe 50, 87). **Att:** 5,500.
Feyenoord 0, Maastricht 1 (Lanckohr 36). **Att:** 14,091.
Volendam 0, PSV 3 (Linskens 56, Romario 62, Kieft 83). **Att:** 4,864.
Ajax 7 (Jonk 3, Winter 17, Van Loen 48, 80, Bergkamp 54, 78, 81), **Twente 0. Att:** 13,000.
SVV/Dordrecht 0, Groningen 1 (Meijer 42). **Att:** 1,100.
Den Haag 1 (Van Iskeren 68), **Fortuna Sittard 0. Att:** 3,250.
VVV 1 (Haan 70), **De Graafschap 2** (Koolhof 46, Hofstede 57). **Att:** 3,500.
Roda JC v Utrecht — *postponed*

EUROPEAN CUPS

CHAMPIONS' CUP Semi-finals, Group A (MARCH 4)
Anderlecht 3 (Degryse 53, Nilis 67, 89)
Sampdoria 2 (Vialli 26, 67)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Schmidhuber (Ger)
Anderlecht: Maes — Crasson, Kooiman, Rutjes, De Wolf, Boffin (Van Baekel 75), Walem, Degryse, Versavel, Oliveira (Lamptey 65), Nilis.
Sampdoria: Pagliuca — Mannini, Vierchowod, Lana, Pari, Bonetti, Lombardo, Katanec, Cerezo, Vialli, Mancini.

Panathinaikos 0
Red Star 2 (Pancev 70, 86)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Spirin (CIS)
Panathinaikos: Wandzik — Apostolakis, Mavridis, Kalitzakis, Kalatsis, Karageorgiu (Frantzeskos 70), Christodolu, Antoniu (Donis 58), Maragos, Saravakos, K Warzycha.
Red Star: Lekovic (Milojevic 53) — Radanovic, Belodedic, Tangyja, Vasilijevic, Jugovic, Radjovic, Bolic, Mihajlovic, Pancev, Ivic.

Group B (March 4)
Benfica 1 (Pacheco 53pen)
Sparta 1 (Novotny 32)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** McGinlay (Sco)
Benfica: Neno — Jose Carlos, Paulo Madeira, William, Veloso, Thern, Paulo Sousa, Rui Costa, Kulkov (Pacheco 31), Yuran, Magnusson.
Sparta: Kouba — Novotny, Chovanec, Hornak, Vrabec, Mistr, Nemec, Nemecek, Trval (Cerny 78), Siegl, Frydek (Matta 89).

Kiev Dynamo 0
Barcelona 2 (Stoichkov 32, 67)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Goethals (Bel)
Kiev: Kutepov — Luzhni, Besmertni, Tsveiba, Shmatovalenko, Gritsina, Anenkov, Zayets, Y Moroz, Salenko, Charan (Volotiok 76).
Barcelona: Zubizarreta — Nando, Koeman, Juan Carlos, Guardiola, Bakero (Salinas 65), Nadal, Eusebio, Witschge, Stoichkov, Laudrup (Beguiristain 55).

CUP-WINNERS' CUP Quarter-finals, first leg (MARCH 4)
Atletico Madrid 3 (Schuster 30, Toni 47, Futre 57)
Brugge 2 (Verspaille 32, Beyens 43)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 55,000. **Ref:** Galler (Swz).
At Madrid: Abel — Tomas, Juanito, Donato (Lopez 56), Solozobal — Schuster, Vizcaino, Toni — Manolo, Futre, Moya.
Brugge: Verlinden — Verspaille, Plovie, Cossey, Borkelmans, Beyens — F Van der Elst, Creve, Staelens (Van der Heyden 65) — Amokachi, Booy.

Feyenoord 1 (Kiprich 56)
Tottenham 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 44,000. **Ref:** Pairetto (Ita)
Feyenoord: De Goey — Fraser, De Wolf, Metgod, Heus, Scholten, Sabau, Witschge, Taument, Kiprich, Blinker (Van Gobbel 73).
Tottenham: Thorstvedt — Fenwick, Sedgley, Mabbutt, Van Den Hauwe, P Allen. Stewart, Howells (Samways 74), Mayim, Durie, Lineker (Walsh 85).

Roma 0
Monaco 0
Att: 40,336. **Ref:** Navarrete (Spa).
Roma: Zinetti — De Marchi (Garzya 46), Aldair, Nela, Carboni, Hassler, Bonacina, Di Mauro, Salsano (Carnevale 53), Rizzitelli, Voller.
Monaco: Ettori — Valery, Petit, Mendy, Sonor, Rui Barros, Dib, Puel, Passi (Djorkaeff 79), Weah, Fofana (Gnako 70).

Werder Bremen 2 (Kohn 78, Bester 85)
Galatasaray 1 (Kosecki 33)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Listkiewicz (Pol).
Bremen: Reck — Bockenfeld, Harttgen, Borowka, Bode — Hermann (Bester 60), Eilts, Votava, Neubarth — W Rufer (Kohn 30), K Allofs.
Galatasaray: Hayrettin — Ismail, Tayfun, Yussuf, Erhan — Muhammed, Tugay, Rotariu, Hamza — Kosecki, Arif (Taner 82).

UEFA CUP Quarter-finals, first leg (MARCH 4)
B1903 0
Torino 2 (Casagrande 37, Policano 82)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 14,600. **Ref:** Spassov (Bul)
B1903: Risom — Wegner, I Nielsen, Piechnik, Birkedal — Larsen, L Nielsen (Bjerre 62), Uldberg, Manniche — Michael Johansen (Lyng 70), Martin Johansen.
Torino: Marchegiani — Bruno, Cravero, Annoni, Mussi — Fusi, Scifo (Sordo 85), Policano, Martin Vazquez (Venturin 85) — Lentini, Casagrande.

Genoa 2 (Fiorin 40, Branco 88)
Liverpool 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 40,000. **Ref:** Forstinger (Aus)
Genoa: Braglia — Torrente, Collovati, Signorini, Branco — Eranio, Ruotolo, Fiorin (Onorati 70), Bortolazzi — Aguilera, Skuhravy.
Liverpool: Hooper — Rob Jones, Nicol, M Wright, Burrows — Molby, Houghton, Walters (Venison 84) — Saunders, McManaman.

Gent 0
Ajax 0
Att: 15,000. **Ref:** Puhl (Hun)
Gent: Petry — Verdegem, De Groote, Van Gronsveld, Verkuyl — Janssens, Dauwem, Herbodts, Porte (Cooreman 87) — Vandenbergh, Viscaal (Balenga 75).
Ajax: Menzo — Blind, Silooy, Jonk, De Boer — Winter, Van't Schip, Kreek — Pettersson (Roy 71), Bergkamp, Van Loen.

Sigma Olomouc 1 (Hapal 26)
Real Madrid 1 (Hierro 45)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 14,000. **Ref:** Lanese (Ita)
Sigma: Pribyl — Slaby (R Mucza 80), Kotulek, Kovar (Barboric 70), Vadura — Hanus, Marosi, Latal, Hapal — Kerbr, Sindelar.
Madrid: Buyo — Chendo, Ricardo Rocha, Sanchis, Hierro, Villaroya — Michel, Milla, Gordillo (Hagi 72; Maqueda 74) — Butragueno, Llorente.

CHAMPIONS' CUP Semi-finals, Group A (MARCH 18)
Red Star 1 (Mihajlovic 53pen)
Panathinaikos 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 23,000 (in Sofia). **Ref:** Soriano Aladren (Spa)
Red Star: Milojevic — Radinovic, Vasilijevic, Tanjga, Belodedic, Ratkovic, Ivic, Jugovic, Pancev, Savicevic (Bolic 35), Mihajlovic.
Panathinaikos: Wandzik — Apostolakis, Kalatzis, Karageorgiu, Kaltzakis, Mavridis, Saravakos, Antoniu (Donis 33), Warzycha, Christodolu, Maragos (Franzeskos 75).

Sampdoria 2 (Lombardo 33, Mancini 35)
Anderlecht 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 33,874. **Ref:** Mikkelsen (Den)
Sampdoria: Pagliuca — Mannini, Katanec, Pari, D Bonetti, Lanna, Lombardo, Cerezo, Vialli, Mancini (Buso 86), I Bonetti.
Anderlecht: Maes — Crasson, Kooiman, Rutjes, De Wolf, Walem, Versavel, Oliveira (Lamptey 46), Degyse, Nilis, Boffin (Van Baekel 71).

Group B (March 18)
Barcelona 3 (Stoichkov 58, 91, Salinas 87)
Kiev Dynamo 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 70,000. **Ref:** Assenmacher (Ger)
Barcelona: Zubizarreta — Nando, Koeman, Guardiola (Salinas 72), Amor, Bakero, Goikotxea, Stoichkov, Laudrup, Witschge, Eusebio.
Kiev: Martikeras — Luzhni (Volotok 5), Tsveiba, Besmertni, Shmatovalenko, Gritsina, Anenko, Zayets, Salenko, *Y Moroz, Sharan.
Moroz sent off, 58min.

Sparta 1 (Chovanec 44)
Benfica 1 (Vitor Paneira 29)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 28,000. **Ref:** Biguet (Fra)
Sparta: Kouba — Sopko (Matta 62), Mistr, Vrabec, Hornak, Nemecek, Nemec, Chovanec, Trval (Cerny 36), Siegl, Frydek.
Benfica: Neno — Jose Carlos, Rui Bento, William, Veloso, Thern, Vitor Paneira, Pacheco (Magnusson 75), Schwarz, Isaias, Cesar Brito.

CUP-WINNERS' CUP Quarter-finals, second leg (MARCH 18)
Club Brugge 2 (Querter 41pen, Booy 63)
At Madrid 1 (Futre 11)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Larsson (Swe)
Brugge win on away goals — 4-4 agg.
Brugge: Verlinden — Verspaille, Borkelmans, Van der Heiden (Plovie 68), Kossey, Querter, Creve, Staelens, Beyens, Booy, Amokachi.
At Madrid: Abel — Tomas (Aguilera 65), Juanito, Lopez, Solozobal, Toni, Schuster, Vizcaino, Manolo, Futre, Soler.

Galatasaray 0
Werder Bremen 0
Att: 35,000. **Ref:** Nielsen (Den)
Bremen win 2-1 on agg
Galatasaray: Hayrettin — Tayfun, Bulent, Yusuf, Erhan (Taner 79), Rotariu, Tugay, Muhammed, Hamza, Kosecki, Keser (Arif 75).
Bremen: Reck — Bockenfeld (Bester 81), Otten, Bratseth, Hermann (Legat 86), Borowka, Eilts, Schaaf, Bode, Neubarth, Wolter.

Monaco 1 (Rui Barros 44)
Roma 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Blankenstein (Hol)
Monaco win 1-0 on agg
Monaco: Ettori — Valery, Sonor, Petit, Mendy, Puel, Barros, Dib, Weah, Passi (Thuram 86), Fofana (Gnako 77).
Roma: Zinetti — Garzya, Carboni, Piacentini (Giannini 53), Aldair, Nela (Comi 46), Hassler, Bonacina, Voller, Di Mauro, Rizzitelli.

Tottenham 0
Feyenoord 0
Att: 29,834. **Ref:** Rothlisberger (Swz)
Feyenoord win 1-0 on agg
Tottenham: Thorstvedt — Bergsson, Mabbutt, Sedgley, Edinburgh, Stewart (Houghton 62), Howells, Nayim (Walsh 71), P Allen, Durie, Lineker.
Feyenoord: De Goey — De Wolf, Heus, Metgod, Scholten, Bosz, Fraser, Sabau (Van Gobbel 74), Witschge, Taument, Blinker (Kiprich 67).

UEFA CUP Quarter-finals, second leg (MARCH 18)
Ajax 3 (Kreek 7, Bergkamp 10, Jonk 89)
Gent 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Sundell (Swe)
Ajax win 3-0 on agg
Ajax: Menzo — Blind, Silooy, Jonk, De Boer, Winter, Van't Schip, Kreek (Alflen 79), Pettersson (Van Loen 70), Bergkamp, Roy.
Gent: Petry — Verkuyl, Verdegem (Balenga 89), Dauwen, De Groote (Van der Linden 19), Van Gronsveld, Janssens, Medved, Vandenbergh, Viscaal, Herbots.

Liverpool 1 (Rush 49)
Genoa 2 (Aguilera 27, 72)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 38,840. **Ref:** Van den Wijngaert (Hol)
Genoa win 4-1 on agg
Liverpool: Hooper — Jones (Venison 64), Burrows, Nicol, Molby, Wright (Tanner 16), Saunders, Marsh, Rush, Barnes, McManaman.
Genoa: Braglia — Torrente, Branco, Eranio, Collovati, Signorini, Ruotolo, Bortolazzi, Aguilera (Caricola 85), Skuhravy, Onorati (Fionn 78).

Real Madrid 1 (Hugo Sanchez 82)
Sigma Olomouc 0
HT: 50,000. **Ref:** Constantin (Bel)
Real Madrid win 2-1 on agg
Madrid: Buyc — Chendo, Lasa, Ricardo Rocha, Sanchis, Hierro, Butragueno (Maqueda 85), Gordillo (Hagi 60), Hugo Sanchez, Michel, Llorente.
Sigma: Prybil — Borkij, Vadura (Gotwald 81), Kotulek, Slaby, Marosi, Hanus (Guzic 79), Latal, Kerbr, Gottwald, Hapal.

Torino 1 (Nielsen og 30)
B1903 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000 (on March 19). **Ref:** Waddell (Sco).
Torino win 3-0 on agg
Torino: Marchegiani — Bruno, Mussi (Cois 30), Annoni, Benedetti, Cravero, Scifo (Sordo 57), Lentini, Casagrande, Martin Vazquez, Venturin.
B1903: Petersen — Wegner, Tur, Piechnik, Nielsen, Larsen, Bjerre, Uldbierg (Birkedal 46), Manniche, Martin Johansen (Rasmussen 73), Lyng.

LEADING SCORERS
Champions' Cup:
Papin (Marseille) 7; Nilis (Anderlecht), Vialli (Sampdoria) 6; Pancev (Red Star), Yuran (Benfica) 5; Lombardo (Sampdoria), Isais (Benfica), Smith (Arsenal) 4.
Cup-winners' Cup:
Lipcsei (Ferencvaros) 6; Manolo, Futre (At Madrid) 5; Kosecki (Galatasaray), Schuster (At Madrid) 4.
UEFA Cup:
Saunders (Liverpool) 9; Aguilera (Genoa) 6; H Hassan (Xamax), Hami (Trabzonspor), Westerthaler (Tirol) 5; Hapal (Signa), Sporl (Hamburg) 4.

SOUTH & CENTRAL AMERICAN LEAGUE RESULTS AND TABLES

VENEZUELA
First Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Maritimo	17	8	8	1	20	12	24
Minerven	16	9	5	2	20	6	23
Tachira	17	8	4	5	21	18	20
Un.de los Andes	17	8	5	4	22	17	21
Mineros	16	7	6	3	24	15	20
Caracas FC	16	7	4	5	27	17	18
Anzoategui	17	6	7	4	19	15	19
Trujillanos	16	7	4	5	25	16	18
Zamora	15	6	3	6	22	13	15
Lara	15	5	5	5	17	14	15
Monagas	16	6	3	7	18	21	15
Italia	16	5	3	8	18	26	13
Estudiantes	16	3	6	7	15	16	12
Industriales	16	2	6	8	13	26	10
Salineros	16	0	6	10	11	25	6
Portuguesa	16	2	4	10	11	25	8

BRAZIL
National Championship, 1st Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Vasco da Gama	4	3	1	0	9	2	7
Flamengo	4	2	2	0	8	5	6
Sao Paulo	4	2	2	0	5	2	6
Cruzeiro	4	2	1	1	5	1	5
Botafogo	4	2	1	1	7	4	5
Sport	4	2	1	1	1	0	5
Corinthians	4	2	1	1	5	5	5
Portuguesa	4	1	2	1	6	5	4
Bahia	4	1	2	1	5	5	4
Goias	4	1	2	1	4	4	4
Nautico	4	1	2	1	2	2	4
Paysandu	4	2	0	2	3	4	4
Bragantino	4	1	2	1	1	3	4
Internacional	3	1	1	1	5	3	3
Palmeiras	4	1	1	2	6	7	3
Fluminense	3	1	1	1	3	5	3
Santos	3	0	2	1	2	3	2
At. Mineiro	4	0	1	3	1	6	1
At. Paranense	4	0	1	3	1	7	1
Guarani	3	0	0	3	1	7	0

(Top eight qualify for semi-final stage)

URUGUAY
"Liguilla" (Libertadores Cup qualifier)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Defensor Sporting	5	3	1	1	9	6	7
Penarol	5	2	2	1	6	2	6
Nacional	5	2	2	1	7	4	6
Danubio	5	3	0	2	9	9	6
Central Espanol	4	1	1	2	4	7	3
Wanderers	4	0	0	4	6	13	0

Nacional beat Penarol in play-off (6-5 on penalties) for second place to qualify together with Defensor Sporting.

EL SALVADOR
First Division: 1) Luis Angel Firpo 34 pts; 2) Alianza 32; 3) FAS 29; 4) Marte 24; 5) Fuerte San Francisco 23; 6) Tiburones 21; 7) Aquila 20; 8) Metapan, Baygot-ADET 19; 10) Cojutepeque 17.

HONDURAS
Final round: 1) Real Espana 11 pts; 2) Olimpia 7; 3) Marathon 7; 4) Platense 6; 5) Motagua 1.

MEXICO
First Division ***(After 26 games — top two of each group qualify for play-offs)***
Group 1 — 1) UA Mexico 30 pts; 2) Veracruz 29; 3) Atlas 26; 4) UA Guadalajara 22; 5) Cobras Ciudad Juarez 17.
Group 2 — 1) UA Tamaulipas, Puebla 29; 3) Guadalajara 27; 4) Monterrey 22; 5) Queretaro 17.
Group 3 — 1) Cruz Azul, Leon 29; 3) Necaxa, Santos 26; 5) Toluca 22.
Group 4 — 1) Atlante 36; 2) Morelia, America 28; 4) UN Leon 26; 5) Univ. Guadalajara 18.

COSTA RICA
First Division
Group A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alajuelense	10	3	6	1	10	8	12
Heredia	10	3	4	3	7	9	10
Perez Zeledon	10	1	6	3	7	10	8
Uruguay	10	1	4	5	5	16	6
Group B							
Saprissa	10	5	4	1	14	8	14
Turrialba	10	4	5	1	14	5	13
San Carlos	10	3	4	3	11	11	10
Limon	10	2	3	5	9	11	7
Group C							
Cartago	10	4	4	2	12	8	12
Puntarenas	10	4	4	1	16	9	12
Carmelita	10	3	5	2	12	10	11
Guanacaste	10	0	5	5	1	9	5

OLYMPIC QUALIFYING
South American zone
(in Asuncion, Paraguay)

Group A:
Jan. 31 — Paraguay 1 Venezuela 0.
Feb. 01 — Brazil 2 Peru 1.
Feb. 03 — Brazil 1 Paraguay 0.
Colombia 4 Peru 1.
Feb. 05 — Peru 3 Venezuela 0.
Colombia 2 Brazil 0.
Feb. 07 — Paraguay 7 Peru 1.
Colombia 4 Venezuela 0.
Feb. 09 — Brazil 1 Venezuela 1.
Paraguay 0 Colombia 0.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colombia	4	3	1	0	10	1	7
Paraguay	4	2	1	1	8	2	5
Brazil	4	2	1	1	4	4	5
Peru	4	1	0	3	6	13	2
Venezuela	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

Group B:
Feb. 02 — Ecuador 2 Uruguay 0.
Argentina 1 Bolivia 0.
Feb. 04 — Uruguay 1 Chile 0.
Argentina 1 Ecuador 0.
Feb. 06 — Ecuador 4 Bolivia 1.
Argentina 1 Chile 1.
Feb. 08 — Uruguay 4 Bolivia 0.
Ecuador 5 Chile 1.
Feb.10 — Chile v Bolivia cancelled.
Uruguay 2 Argentina 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ecuador	4	3	0	1	11	3	6
Uruguay	4	3	0	1	7	3	6
Argentina	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
Chile	3	0	1	2	2	7	1
Bolivia	3	0	0	3	1	9	0

Top two of each group in final round.

Final round
February 12
COLOMBIA 3 (Asprilla 2, Pacheco)
URUGUAY 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Javier Castrilli (Arg)
Colombia: Calero, Santa, Cassiani, Bermudez, Osorio, Lozano (Pacheco), Gaviria (Perez), Restrepo, Aristizabal, Asprilla, Valenciano.
Uruguay: L Nunez, Ramos, Montero, G. Da Silva, Gastan, Saralegui, Dorta, Rodriguez (Espana), Tejera, Canobbio, Bitancort.
● Colombia played the better soccer with the Asprilla-Valenciano duo standing out in attack.

PARAGUAY 1 (Gamarra)
ECUADOR 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Marcio Rezende (Brazil).
Paraguay: Ruiz Diaz, Duarte, Ayala, Peralta, Leiva, Sosa, Gamarra, Neffa (Alvarenga), Arce, Cardozo (Campos), Benitez.
Ecuador: Espinoza, Carabali, Noriega, Montano, Corunel, Fernandez, Hurtado (Burbano), Chala (Hurtado), Tenorio, Hurtado, Zambrano.
● Paraguay deserved victory, but had their work cut out before scoring the only goal 24 minutes from the end and they missed other chances.

FEBRUARY 14

PARAGUAY 1 (Yebros)
COLOMBIA 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Renato Marsiglia (Brazil).
Att: 35,000.
Paraguay: Ruiz Diaz, Duarte, Ayala, Peralta, Leiva, Arce, Sosa, Gamarra, Neffa (Alvarenga), Benitez, Campos (Yegros).
Colombia: Calero, Santa, Cassiani, Bermudez, Osorio, Lozano (Pacheco), Gavina (J.Perez), Restrepo, Aristizabal, Asprilla, Valenciano.
● Colombia played the better soccer and Paraguay seemed to be playing more for a draw against what they felt were superior rivals. Colombia were too confident that their better play would triumph in the end, but Paraguay held out to maintain their 29-minute lead.

URUGUAY 1 (Saralegui)
ECUADOR 0
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Pablo Pena (Bolivia).
Att: 10,000.
Uruguay: Nunez, Ramos, Silva, Montero, Dos Santos, Saralegui, Dorta, Tejera, Bitancort, Ferreyra (Cannobio), Lopez (Rodriguez).
Ecuador: Espinoza, Coronel, Montano, Noriega, I. Hurtado, Chala, Carabali, Tenorio, Burbano (Zambrano), E. Hurtado, P. Hurtado (Maldonado).
● This looked like a draw with neither team doing anything to deserve a goal. The goal only came 15 minutes from the end and then Uruguay had to hold out against repeated Ecuadorian attacks to hold on to the lead.

FEBRUARY 16

PARAGUAY 0
URUGUAY 0
Ref: Alvaro Arbolera (Venezuela).
Att: 40,000.
Paraguay: Ruiz Diaz, Marecos, Peralta, Ayala, Duarte, Hugo Sosa, Gamarra, Hector Sosa, Neffa (Alvarenga), Benitez (Cardoso), Campos.
Uruguay: Nunez, Gastan, Silva, Montero, Dos Santos, Saralegui, Dorta, Tejera, Rodriguez, Bitancort, Canobbio.
● Paraguay only needed a draw to clinch the tournament and a place in Barcelona and in a technically poor game they had a few more chances because, although Uruguay — needing victory to qualify — attacked more, their play was ineffective in front of goal.

COLOMBIA 1 (Aristizabal)
ECUADOR 1 (Chala)
HT: 0-0. **Ref:** Javier Castrilli (Arg). **Att:** 20,000.
Colombia: Calero, Osorio, Cassiani, Bermudez, Botero (Marulanda), Losano (Pacheco), Perez, Restrepo, Aristizabal, Valenciano, Zambrano.
Ecuador: Espinoza, I Hurtado, Noriega, Montano, Coronel, Carabali, Tenorio, Zambrano (Cubero), Burbano, E. Hurtado (Calderon), Chala.
● In this final game of the tournament Colombia, considered the best team, knew that all they needed was a draw to clinch the second qualifying place on goals over Uruguay. They were without one of their leading stars, Asprilla — who had a one-match suspension after collecting two cautions in previous games — and did not show their usual form. Both teams looked tired — it was their seventh game in 16 days in intense heat and it was technically poor with neither team able to do much for victory. Colombia went ahead six minutes after half-time only for Ecuador to equalise immediately.

Final round — final standings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paraguay	3	2	1	0	2	0	5
Colombia	3	1	1	1	4	2	3
Uruguay	3	1	1	1	1	3	3
Ecuador	3	0	1	2	1	3	1

MAJOR CLUB INTERNATIONALS
Feb. 2 — Velez Sarsfield (Arg) 2 Grasshoppers Zurich (Swi) 1; Barcelona (Ecu) 3 Coquimbo Unido (Chi) 1; Sport Boys (Peru) 2 Valez (Ecu) 1.
Feb. 3 — Colo Colo (Chi) 1 River Plate (Arg) 0.
Feb. 6 — Coquimbo Unido (Chi) 1 Barcelona (Ecu) 1.
Feb. 9 — Barcelona (Ecu) 3 Deportivo Cali (Col) 2; Rosario Central (Arg) 3 Grasshoppers Zurich (Swi) 1; Sport Boys (Peru) 1 Emelec (Ecu) 1.
Feb. 10 — Quilmes (Arg) 1 Sion (Swi) 1.
Feb. 12 — Boca Juniors (Arg) 1 Colo Colo (Chi) 0; Independente Santa Fe (Col) 3 Barcelona (Ecu) 4.
Feb. 14 — Millonarios (Col) 1 Sporting Cristal (Peru) 0 (in Ecuador); Emelec (Ecu) 2 Universidad de Chile 0.
Feb. 15 — Gimnasia y Esgrima de La Plata (Arg) 1 Grasshoppers Zurich (Swi) 0.
Feb. 16 — Universidad Catolica (Chi) 3 FC Oeste (Arg) 1; Independiente Santa Fe (Col) 1 Barcelona (Ecu) 4; Cobreloa (Chi) 2 Olimpia (Par) 1; Emelec (Ecu) 2 (2 pen.) Millonarios 4 (Col) (4 pen.).

OTHER MAJOR INTERNATIONALS
Jan. 22 — Peru U-23 5 Chile U-23 2; Brazil U-23 3 US U-23 0; Costa Rica Select 1 Hamburg (Ger) 1.
Jan. 26 — Chile U-23 1 Peru U-23 0.
Jan. 29 — Chile U-23 2 St Gallen (Swi) 6.

1992 LIBERTADORES CUP

FIRST ROUND
GROUP 1
(Chile — Argentina)

18.02.92	Colo Colo (Chi) v Coquimbo (Chi)	1-0
21.02.92	Colo Colo v Univ. Catolica (Chi)	1-1
26.02.92	Coquimbo v Univ. Catolica	3-2
26.02.92	Newell's (Arg) v San Lorenzo (Arg)	0-6
03.03.92	Newell's v Coquimbo	3-0
03.03.92	San Lorenzo v Colo Colo	1-0
06.03.92	Newell's v Colo Colo	3-1
06.03.92	San Lorenzo v Coquimbo	3-0
09.03.92	Univ. Catolica v Newell's	1-1
13.03.92	Univ. Catolica v San Lorenzo	4-0
17.03.92	Coquimbo v Colo Colo	1-1
20.03.92	Univ. Catolica v Colo Colo	0-0
25.03.92	Univ. Catolica v Coquimbo	
25.03.92	San Lorenzo v Newell's	
31.03.92	Sport Boys v America	
03.04.92	Sp. Cristal v America	
07.04.92	Sport Boys v At. Nacional	
12.04.92	Sp. Cristal v At. Nacional	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
San Lorenzo	4	3	0	1	10	4	6
Univ. Catolica	5	1	3	1	8	5	5
Newell's	4	2	1	1	7	8	5
Colo Colo	6	1	3	2	4	6	5
Coquimbo	5	1	1	3	4	10	3

GROUP 2
(Bolivia — Brazil)

06.03.92	Criciuma (Bra) v Sao Paulo (Bra)	3-0
06.03.92	Bolivar (Bol) v San Jose (Bol)	2-1
17.03.92	San Jose v Sao Paulo	0-3
20.03.92	Bolivar v Sao Paulo	1-1
24.02.92	San Jose v Criciuma	
27.03.92	Bolivar v Criciuma	
02.04.92	Sao Paulo v Criciuma	
02.04.92	San Jose v Bolivar	
07.04.92	Sao Paulo v San Jose	
10.04.92	Criciuma v San Jose	
14.04.92	Sao Paulo v Bolivar	
18.04.92	Criciuma v Bolivar	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Bolivar	2	1	1	0	3	2	3
Sao Paolo	3	1	1	1	4	4	3
Criciuma	1	1	0	0	3	0	2
San Jose	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

GROUP 3
(Ecuador — Venezuela)

23.02.92	Maritimo (Ven) v ULA (Ven)	1-2
23.02.92	Barcelona (Ecu) v Valdez (Ecu)	0-0
11.03.92	ULA v Valdez	0-2
15.03.92	Maritimo v Valdez	1-0
18.03.92	Maritimo v Barcelona	1-1
22.03.92	ULA v Barcelona	
29.03.92	Valdez v Barcelona	
29.03.92	ULA v Maritimo	
01.04.92	Valdez v Maritimo	
04.04.92	Barcelona v Maritimo	
07.04.92	Valdez v ULA	
10.04.92	Barcelona v ULA	

	P	W	D	L	F	A	PTS
Valdez	3	1	1	1	2	1	3
Maritimo	3	1	1	1	3	3	3
Barcelona	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
ULA	2	1	0	1	2	3	2

GROUP 4
(Colombia — Peru)

26.02.92	America (Col) v At. Nacional (Col)	2-0
26.02.92	Sp. Boys (Peru) v Sp. Cristal (Peru)	1-1
10.03.92	America v Sport Bo

SHEARER LOOKS THE PART FOR ENGLAND

BY DERICK **ALLSOP**

ALAN SHEARER'S season could culminate with an important role in England's European Championship campaign.

Despite Southampton's plight in the relegation zone of the First Division, Shearer has proved a prolific scorer, and Manchester United are among the clubs said to be prepared to spend £3m for him.

Whatever his domestic future may hold, there seems little doubt that he will figure in England manager Graham Taylor's plans. Shearer was given his debut in the friendly against France at Wembley, and did not waste the opportunity.

He scored the first goal, spinning and converting like Gary Lineker, and his all-round performance suggests he has the ability and temperament to lead attacks at the highest level.

Lineker, much to his displeasure, was left out of the starting line-up but went on in the second half in place of Sheffield Wednesday's David Hirst and completed France's first defeat for three years with his 47th goal for England.

Liverpool full-back Rob Jones, who started the season playing Fourth Division football with Crewe, was another impressive debutant. Taylor, intent on experimenting, also called up the Everton central defender, Martin Keown, and reinstated Manchester United midfielder Neil Webb.

Holding

These are nervous times for Leeds and their League Championship rivals, Manchester United. Both seem incapable of holding the lead.

Leeds missed the chance to take over at the top when they were held 0-0 at home by Aston Villa. Gordon Strachan, their captain and former Manchester United player, had a tame penalty saved by Nigel Spink.

Strachan's side eventually moved ahead again with a 3-1 victory at Tottenham, where most visitors win these days.

Liverpool, out of touch in the chase for the Championship, emerged as clear favourites for the FA Cup after beating Aston Villa and drawing Second Division Portsmouth in the semi-finals.

Ronnie Whelan, John Barnes and Michael Thomas, all back after injury, combined to produce the only goal of the Anfield quarter-final.

Portsmouth earned their first semi-final appearance in 43 years by beating Nottingham Forest 1-0. An early error by Mark Crossley, dropping the ball at Alan McLoughlin's feet, condemned Forest manager Brian Clough to at least another year's wait for FA Cup success. He has had more fortune on the Rumbelows League Cup trail and secured yet another final place in that competition with a 3-2 aggregate semi-final victory over Tottenham. Forest play last year's beaten finalists, Manchester United, who beat Second Division Middlesbrough 2-1 over two legs.

Peter Shilton, who quit the international stage at the end of Italia '90, has started a new career as player-manager of struggling Second Division club Plymouth Argyle. Former Forest team-mate John McGovern is his assistant.

Shilton . . . in charge of Plymouth.

Gers ready for another title

BY ALAN **FAIRLEY**

RANGERS look well on course for their fourth successive League Championship with the challenge of Hearts gradually faltering as the season wears on.

The Ibrox club's sheer strength in depth has proved to be too much for their rivals this season and while Joe Jordan's rejuvenated Tynecastle side managed to stay in touch with them for an extended period, others such as Celtic, Aberdeen, Hibernian and Dundee United have failed to make any impact on the title race, leaving Rangers free to pull clear at the top, proving conclusively that there is indeed life after Souness.

Manager Walter Smith has an embarrassment of riches at his disposal on the playing front and he has regularly been able to field a winning side even without the sporadically-available talents of Ukrainian pair Oleg Kusnetzov and Alexei Mikhailichenko, plus long-term injury victims such as Ian Durrant and Ian Ferguson.

Despite the cup successes during 1991 of both Motherwell and Hibernian, Scottish football remains in grave danger of being subject to an Ibrox monopoly and it is the responsibility of the 11 other Premier League clubs to stimulate a more meaningful competitive edge to the championship race in order to prevent such an unpalatable situation from occurring.

With the destination of the League Championship being, more or less, a foregone conclusion, attention has been focused once again on the infinitely more competitive First Division which is providing its annual "battle royal" for the two promotion places.

At the moment Dundee and Partick Thistle look favourites to make the step upwards although Hamilton, Kilmarnock and Raith Rovers are by no means out of contention.

Backing

Much travelled Englishman Simon Stainrod has been given, on a temporary basis at least, the managerial responsibility at Dundee following Iain Munro's resignation.

Stainrod, who will perform in the dual role of player-manager for the time being, has some talented players available as well as an enviable degree of financial backing from the board of directors, recently supplemented by Canadian businessman Ron Dixon.

One of the most notable on-field assets at Dens Park at present is goalkeeper Jim Leighton, who has finally made a return to competitive football after the 20 month period of virtual inactivity which followed his unfortunate experience with Manchester United around the time of the 1990 FA Cup final reply.

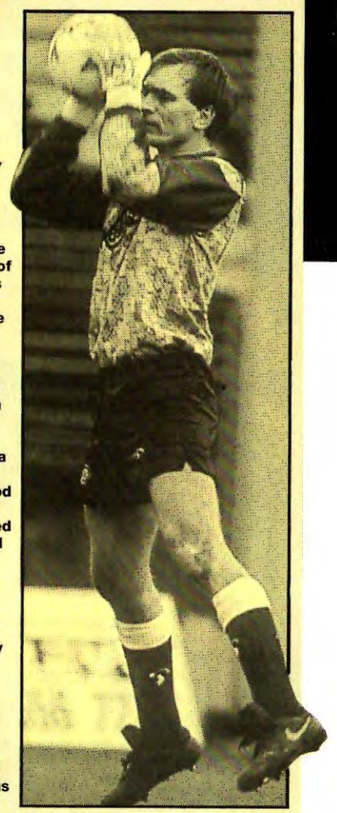
"I don't want to say too much about what happened at Old Trafford," said Leighton, "but I will say that I'm delighted to be back in action after a long and frustrating time on the sidelines.

"I've no doubts that I've come to a club which is going places and at the moment the team's looking good for promotion.

"Everything at Dens Park is geared to Premier League involvement and I'm looking forward to playing in front of big clubs again."

Regardless of what happened between Leighton and Alex Ferguson, few would begrudge the likeable goalkeeper the opportunity of revitalising his career.

At the age of 33, it is not unthinkable that he could once again find himself challenging for a place in the Scottish international squad. Leighton was first choice goalkeeper over a nine-year period in which he won 51 caps, but he has not participated at that level since the 1990 World Cup tie against Brazil in Italy.



Geared up . . . Leighton's new club, Dundee, chase promotion.

Portadown lose their grip

BY ROY **KITSON**

A DISASTROUS three-week period for last season's League and Cup double winners, Portadown, reached a climax when they were dumped out of the Bass Irish Cup on their own ground.

Crusaders, shrewdly managed by Roy Walker scored the only goal of a tense quarter-final.

A week earlier, Portadown had virtually kissed goodbye to their League title when they lost 3-2 at home to mid-table Ards.

Keeper Micky Keenan was sent off for a professional foul — handling outside the area — and FIFA referee Frank McDonald had to run a gauntlet of angry fans after the match.

Unfancied Ballyclare Comrades had beaten Portadown 1-0 the previous week, so Glentoran had a virtually unassailable 11-point lead with seven games remaining. Glentoran had bounced back after an Irish Cup sixth-round replay defeat in midweek. Glenavon won 4-0 after a 0-0 draw in Belfast ten days previously — although a week before that Glentoran had hammered them 5-0 in a League game.

Glentoran are saving their best displays for the League. They were knocked out of the Irish League Cup 2-0 by Harland and Wolff Welders from the "B" Division in the shock result of the first round.

Financial problems are plaguing Omagh Town, in their second season in senior football.

Despite a sensational victory over Linfield in the Budweiser Cup last December, the team are not getting the support they deserve.

As a result, manager Roy McCreadie has put the whole team up for sale. The magnet is young striker Harry McCourt.

Lowly Carrick Rangers have appointed former Ballymena and Larne midfielder Kenny Shiels as manager. He replaces Billy Murray, who took over from Robbie Barr but resigned after only four days.

The draw for the semi-finals of the Bass Irish Cup has been made. Glenavon will meet Ballymena United or Oxford United Stars at Windsor Park on April 3, with Crusaders tackling Linfield in the other semi-final the following day at The Oval, Belfast.

MILES APART ON COST

ONLY 100 miles separate Dublin and Belfast. So you would imagine that the cost of watching a World Cup game in either city would be much the same, especially as they are in the same group. Wrong!

There is a huge difference between stand ticket prices for World Cup qualifying games.The IFA in Belfast are offering stand tickets for their games at Windsor Park for £12 each and block bookings for all six games sell for £60.

In Dublin, stand tickets at Lansdowne Road cost between £15 to £30 per game. Right now The Republic are on a high and the pulling power of Jack Charlton's team is much greater than that of Billy Bingham's.

Willing

Middlesbrough defender Alan Kernaghan (left) is the latest English-born player willing to declare for The Republic. His grandparents were born in Belfast and he played schoolboy football for Northern Ireland.

The Irish Football Association do not use the "granny" rule for senior competitions, but the Republic would be willing to take him.

Kernaghan claims that he is entitled to play for Jack Charlton because his grandparents were born in Belfast before the Irish Independence Act of 1921, when the island was regarded as one country.

Charlton brought winger Eddie McGoldrick (Crystal Palace) and striker Tommy Coyne (Celtic) into the squad for the friendly with Switzerland in Dublin.

Two First Division managers have lost their jobs. John O'Neill, the former Northern Ireland international, quit as manager of Finn Harps, and Noel Synnott, a former Eire international, was sacked by Kilkenny City.

SEAN **CREEDON**

RED STAR BELGRADE

Najdoski, Milojevic, Stosic, Mihajlovic, Radinovic, Vasilijevic
Jugovic, Lukic, Pancev, Ivic, Nedeljkovic

FLUMINENSE

Pires, Sandro, Barreto, Pinto, Carlinhos, Torres
Gomes, Renato, Ezio, Bobo, Eduardo

GREAT MATCHES THAT MADE HISTORY

PRESENTED **FREE** WITH

WORLD SOCCER

GREAT MATCHES

WE are delighted to present the latest in our unique series of WORLD SOCCER specials. This month's free booklet — Great Matches That Made History — is the first of a series of three booklets designed to reinforce coverage of the climactic stage of the European season. Next month we will focus on the Great Teams, and the June issue will be accompanied by your WORLD SOCCER Guide to the finals of the European Championship.

Not everyone will agree with our choice of historic matches, but they reflect outstanding games selected from more than a century of football — games notable either for the occasion or for the sheer quality of play.

The World Cup, international club tournaments and domestic competitions are all reflected here — from the first international to the England v West Germany drama at Italia '90 more than a century later. Great players, great memories . . . great matches.

KEIR RADNEDGE - The Editor.

● YOU might like to suggest other Historic Matches for possible future publication.

A one-year subscription to WORLD SOCCER is on offer to the reader we judge to have submitted the best alternative list.

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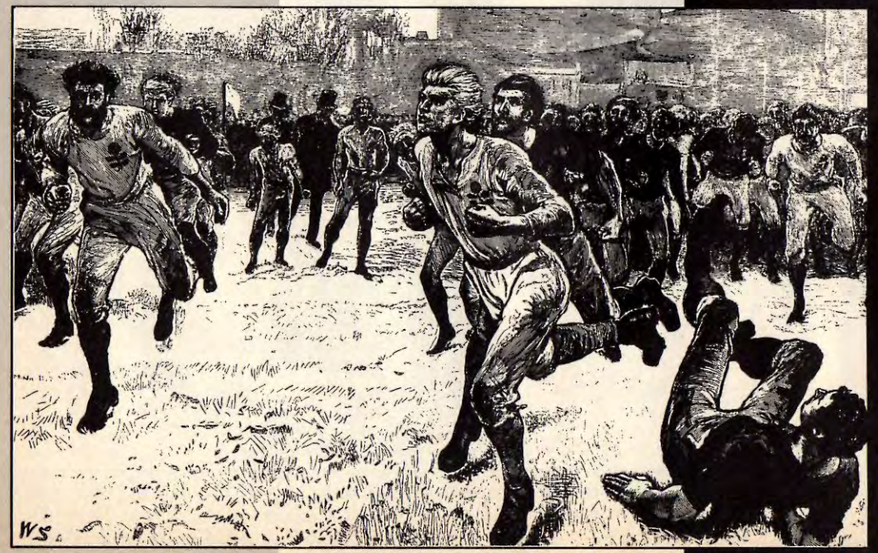
NOV 30, 1872 WEST OF SCOTLAND GROUND, PARTICK. INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY

SCOTLAND 0
ENGLAND 0

HT: 0-0. **Att:** 3,500. **Ref:** Keay (Scotland).
Scotland: Gardner, Ker, Taylor, Thompson, J. Smith, R. Smith, Leckie, Rhind, MacKinnon, Weir, Wotherspoon.
England: Barker, Greenhalgh, Welch, Chappell, Maynard, Brockbank, Clegg, Kirke-Smith, Ottaway, Chenery, Morice.

● The first international ever played, between earnest and well-meaning amateurs (professionalism was some 15 years away). Both teams changed goalkeepers at half-time, Maynard and Barker switching places and Gardner, Scotland's captain, swapping with James Smith. Maynard, only 19, was the first teenager to play in an international.

Goals rarely looked likely, for in those innocent times players generally kept the ball until being tackled (or hacked) out of possession, whereupon the same thing happened to the tackler. Combined play was virtually unknown, equipment was rudimentary, and the goals did not even have crossbars. But the 22 players, all the Scots with Queen's Park and the English mostly from university, old boys' and military teams, had taken the first faltering steps towards the development of the global game.



An artist's impression of the scene as England and Scotland get to grips for the first time.

The first of many . . . a scene from the 1930 World Cup Final with Stabile (arm raised) equalising for Argentina.

JULY 30, 1930
CENTENARIO STADIUM, MONTEVIDEO. WORLD CUP FINAL

URUGUAY 4
(Dorado 12, Cea 57, Iriarte 68, Castro 89)
ARGENTINA 2
(Peucelle 20, Stabile 37)

HT: 1-2. **Att:** 93,000.
Ref: Langenus (Belgium).
Uruguay: Ballesteros, Nasazzi, Mascheroni, Andrade, Fernandez, Gestido, Dorado, Scarone, Castro, Cea, Iriarte.
Argentina: Botasso, Della Torre, Paternoster, J. Evaristo, Monti, Suarez, Peucelle, Varallo, Stabile, Ferreira, M. Evaristo.

● Political problems and uncertainty over the outcome led to the staging of the First World Cup in Uruguay — then so inaccessible that only 13 nations took part. The tournament eventually took place 27 years after it was first suggested.

The Uruguayans took a 12th minute lead through Pablo Dorado but Argentina then took control, scoring an equaliser, by Carlos Peucelle, eight minutes later and a second after 37 minutes — Guillermo Stabile scoring despite protests that he was offside.

12 minutes into the second half, Pedro Cea equalised for Uruguay, thus becoming the first man to score in both the Olympic and World Cup finals (he scored in the 1924 Olympic Final in Paris against Switzerland).

With the crowd well behind them, Uruguay now gained control and re-took the lead after 68 minutes, Iriarte riffing in a goal from 25 yards. Uruguay then clung on to their lead, surviving a few scares from Argentina — especially when Stabile's shot hit the crossbar. One-armed centre forward Hector Castro put the match beyond Argentina with a header a minute from full time. The final whistle sparked huge celebrations which lasted through to the following day — a hastily declared public holiday. The dejected Argentine fans returned home and vented their anger by stoning the Uruguayan Embassy in Buenos Aires. Some things never change . . .

GERMANY 3
(Gauchel, Gellesch, Pesser)

ENGLAND 6
(Bastin, Robinson 2, Broome, Matthews, Goulden)

HT: 2-4. **Att:** 100,000.
Ref: Langenus (Belgium).
Germany: Jakob, Janes, Munzenberg, Kupfer, Goldbrunner, Kitzinger, Lehner, Gellesch, Gauchel, Szepan, Pesser.
England: Woodley, Sproston, Hapgood, Willingham, Young, Welsh, Matthews, Robinson, Broome, Goulden, Bastin.

MAY 14, 1938 OLYMPIASTADION, BERLIN. INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY

Political persuasion . . . the England team before the kick-off in Berlin.

● Hitler was not there, but Goering, Goebbels, Hess and Ribbentrop were present expecting to see Germany (reinforced by three annexed Austrians) humble England, whose compatriots had angered the Fuhrer at the Berlin Olympics two years earlier by refusing to give the Nazi salute.

Skipper Hapgood ("It was the worst moment of my life") and his team yielded to pleadings from the British Ambassador, and raised their right arms during the playing of the anthems. It was perhaps the first time that politics had intruded into English soccer. Interestingly, Aston Villa played a match on the same ground the next day, and ignored the request to salute.

The game was as sensational as the preliminary, with the entire England forward line scoring in a remarkable display of skill despite trying heat, humidity and a partisan crowd. Stanley Matthews gave one of his greatest performances in an England shirt.

JULY 16, 1950 MARACANA STADIUM, RIO DE JANEIRO. WORLD CUP FINAL

URUGUAY 2
(Schiaffino 66, Ghiggia 79)

BRAZIL 1
(Friaca 47)

Just in time . . . Uruguay's Maspoli stops a Brazilian attack before the world record crowd in Rio.

HT: 0-0. **Att:** 199,854. **Ref:** Reader (England).
Uruguay: Maspoli, Gonzales, Cejera, Gambetta, Varela, Andrade, Ghiggia, Perez, Miguez, Schiaffino, Moran.
Brazil: Barbosa, De Costa, Juvenal, Bauer, Aluim, Bigode, Friaca, Zizinho, Ademir, Jair, Chico.

● Although technically not the World Cup Final, this decisive match in the final round pool certainly seemed like it to the world record 200,000 fans crammed into the Maracana. Hosts Brazil were 10-1 on, needing only a draw to take the trophy. But a huge tactical error played into the Uruguayans' hands. Brazil had scored 13 goals in their two final pool games, to Uruguay's five, and decided to attack from the start. But they could not penetrate a superb defence, led by 34-year-old captain Obdulio Varela, in the first half.

Two minutes into the second half they did break through, Friaca scoring from a fine Ademir pass. Brazil could have eased off and defended, but they kept on attacking. A lapse by Bigode allowed Ghiggia to cross for Schiaffino to equalise, and Uruguay snatched victory when Ghiggia beat Bigode once more, cut inside and slotted a shot past Barbosa. The impossible had happened. The disbelieving Brazilian fans sportingly applauded the winners' lap of honour, ending a three-week Brazilian carnival.

● The most famous Cup Final in English history, with a finale that would have been rejected by any publisher of fiction. Stanley Matthews, at 38, inspired his team to become the first of only two teams ever to win the trophy at Wembley from two goals down, the equaliser coming in the last minute of normal time and the winner in injury time. Blackpool, beaten finalists in 1948 and 1951, owed as much — if not more — to Stan Mortensen, especially for the thunderous free-kick that completed his hat-trick, but Matthews is the man who became a legend as a result.

Bolton, with Bell a virtual cripple and Banks limping, were perhaps saved from a worse buffeting by losing at the death. If the game had gone to extra time they might have been unfairly humiliated. They contributed a great deal to one of the most remarkable dramas ever staged on any football ground, anywhere.

MAY 2, 1953 WEMBLEY. FA CUP FINAL

BOLTON 3
(Lofthouse, Moir, Bell)

BLACKPOOL 4
(Mortensen 3, Perry)

HT: 1-2. **Att:** 100,000. **Ref:** Griffiths (Wales).
Blackpool: Farm, Shimwell, Garrett, Fenton, Johnston, Robinson, Matthews, Taylor, Mortensen, Mudie, Perry.
Bolton: Hanson, Ball, R. Banks, Wheeler, Barrass, Bell, Holden, Moir, Lofthouse, Hassall, Langton.

The Matthews Final . . . the great Stanley (above) holds his medal while Harry Johnston clutches the cup.

The Matthews Final . . . Eric Bell defies injury to beat Eddie Shimwell and head Bolton's third goal.

NOV 25, 1953 WEMBLEY. INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY

ENGLAND 3 HUNGARY 6
(Sewell 15, Mortensen 37, Ramsey 61 pen) (Hidegkuti 1, 21, 56, Puskas 22, 29, Bozsik 54)

HT: 2-4. **Att:** 100,000. **Ref:** Horn (Holland).
England: Merrick, Ramsey, Eckersley, Wright, Johnston, Dickinson, Matthews, Taylor, Mortensen, Sewell, Robb.
Hungary: Grosics (Geller), Buzansky, Lantos, Bozsik, Lorant, Zakarias, Budai, Kocsis, Hidegkuti, Puskas, Czibor.

● The Hungarians were not the first team from outside the United Kingdom to beat England in England, little Eire having done so at Everton three years earlier, but they are remembered as the men who ended the myth of English supremacy. That particular edifice had been cracking for some time, but not even the greatest Hungarian enthusiast, revelling in a 21-match unbeaten run before this one, could have forecast such a rout.

If Puskas and company had really sought further goals in the last half hour, when England had only spirit left to drive their exhausted limbs, the score might well have reached double figures. Not that England were bad, by the standards of the time, but they were tactically naive, torn apart by the pace and bewildering interchanging of their opponents. And, in truth, Hungary played to a standard far higher than any they had reached before. On the day, their every touch came off, their every chance resulted in a goal or a near miss. An English purge followed, and six of the team never played for their country again. The catching-up process had begun.

That's one . . . Puskas and Bozsik celebrate (above). That's not . . . Kocsis hits a post (below).

JUNE 30, 1954 LA PONTAISE STADIUM, LAUSANNE. WORLD CUP SEMI-FINAL

HUNGARY 4
(Czibor 13, Hidegkuti 47, Kocsis 114, 116)

URUGUAY 2
(Hohberg 75, 86)

No. 1 is first . . . Roque Maspoli punches away as Peter Palotas challenges.

HT: 1-0. **AET. 90 mins:** 2-2. **Att:** 37,000.
Ref: Griffiths (Wales).
Hungary: Grosics, Buzanszky, Lantos, Bozsik, Lorant, Zakarias, Budai, Kocsis, Palotas, Hidegkuti, Czibor.
Uruguay: Maspoli, Santamaria, Martinez, Andrade, Carballo, Cruz, Souto, Ambrois, Schiaffino, Hohberg, Borges.

● The dazzling Hungarians inflicted Uruguay's first World Cup defeat ever, despite being without injured captain Ferenc Puskas. After Hungary's appalling behaviour in the "Battle of Berne" quarter-final with Brazil, the Swiss authorities took no chances, ringing the rain-soaked pitch with troops.

The Hungarians were unrecognisable from the team who had fought with Brazil. They were inspired by Jozef Bozsik (above), who later became a member of Parliament.

Czibor opened the scoring, and Hidegkuti made it 2-0 with a header. Hungary now seemed to be coasting to the final, but Uruguay clawed their way back — as they had done against Brazil in the final four years previously — with Hohberg making it 2-1 and then levelling the scores.

Hungary's "playing for time" tactic failed and the match entered extra time. Hohberg hit a post before Schiaffino went off injured, and, while Andrade was being treated for cramp, Kocsis headed in. With darkness falling, Kocsis made sure of victory with another header — his 11th goal of the tournament, then a World Cup record.

JULY 4, 1954 WANKDORF STADIUM, BERNE. WORLD CUP FINAL

WEST GERMANY 3
(Morlock 10, Rahn 18, 84)

HUNGARY 2
(Puskas 6, Czibor 8)

HT: 2-2. **Att:** 60,000.
Ref: Ling (England).
West Germany: Turek, Posipal, Kohlmeyer, Eckel, Liebrich, Mai, Rahn, Morlock, O. Walter, F. Walter, Schafer.
Hungary: Grosics, Buzanszky, Lantos, Bozsik, Lorant, Zakarias, Czibor, Kocsis, Hidegkuti, Puskas, M. Toth.

Too soon . . . Zoltan Czibor celebrates, but the Germans fought back to win.

● West Germany and Hungary met earlier in the tournament in a pool two match, which the Hungarians won 8-3. That scoreline may have made them over-confident against the Germans, who were not even seeded. But coach Sepp Herberger had shrewdly fielded a weakened side in the pool match. Now he put out his full-strength side.

Puskas, who insisted on playing though not fully fit, scored after a Kocsis shot rebounded to him, and two minutes later Czibor made it 2-0. The Hungarians seemed on course for the expected victory, but the Germans produced an amazing turnaround, with Morlock and Rahn scoring in the space of eight minutes. Hungary pressed relentlessly in the second half — Hidegkuti hit a post, Kocsis hit the bar, Kohlmeyer cleared off the line and Turek produced a string of fine saves. Then with six minutes left, Rahn collected a poor clearance and hit a low, skidding shot past Grosics from the edge of the box. Puskas then had a goal disallowed for offside and Hungary were beaten for the first time in four years.

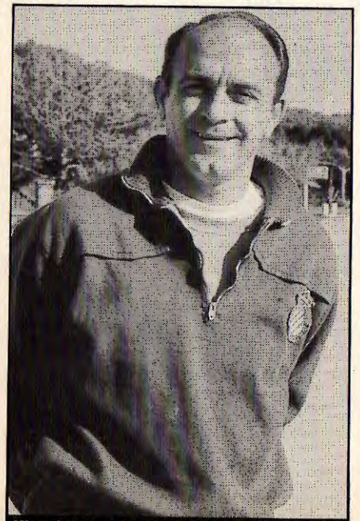
JUNE 13, 1956 PARC DES PRINCES, PARIS. CHAMPIONS' CUP FINAL

REAL MADRID 4

(Di Stefano 15, Rial 30, 72, Marquitos 80)

REIMS 3

(Leblond 4, Templin 11, Hidalgo 63)



King Goal . . . Real's Alfredo Di Stefano.

HT: 2-2. **Att:** 38,238.
Ref: Ellis (England).
Real Madrid: J. Alonso, Atienza, Lesmes, Munoz, Marquitos, Zarraga, Joseito, Marchal, Di Stefano, Rial, Gento.
Reims: Jacquet, Zimny, Giraudo, Leblond, Jonquet, Siatka, Hidalgo, Glovacki, Kopa, Bliard, Templin.

● The first announcement to the world at large that a great team was present in Spain. Real, very much the creation of the president, Santiago Bernabeu, relied greatly on Di Stefano, who scored 49 goals in the Champions' Cup alone during his time in Spain. But they had several other top players, and great resilience: despite losing two silly early goals, they fought back to level, fell behind again, yet won convincingly enough in the end, to become the first name on the new European trophy. The tournament was tiny (only 29 games were played) but it was adventurous, with ten away wins and an average of more than four goals per match. Times were to change . . . but Real were to go on winning.

JUNE 29, 1958 RASUNDA STADIUM, STOCKHOLM. WORLD CUP FINAL

A Pele double . . . challenging goalkeeper Kalle Svensson (left) and celebrating as Mario Zagalo scores Brazil's fourth goal (right).

SWEDEN 2

(Liedholm 4, Simonsson 80)

BRAZIL 5

(Vava 9, 30, Pele 55, 90, Zagalo 68)

HT: 2-1. **Att:** 49,737. **Ref:** Guigue (France).
Brazil: Gilmar, D. Santos, N. Santos, Zito, Bellini, Orlando, Garrincha, Didi, Vava, Pele, Zagalo.
Sweden: Svensson, Bergmark, Axbom, Borjesson, Gustavsson, Parling, Hamrin, Gren, Simonsson, Liedholm, Skoglund.

● Brazil were expected to sweep aside the home team, but Liedholm put Sweden a goal up — the first time the Brazilians had been behind in the tournament. Rather than crumbling, the deficit simply spurred them on to a memorable victory.
Garrincha made two goals for Vava, and the second half showed the teenage Pele at his best. He made it 3-1 with a superb individual goal, trapping the ball on his chest, beating his marker and volleying home. Zagalo made it 4-1, Sweden pulled a consolation goal back through Simonsson, but Pele headed his second after a wonderful move with Zagalo.
Brazil, the favourites, had won the World Cup at last, the first nation to do so on a different continent from their own. Pele was in tears as the Brazilians did a lap of honour carrying a huge Swedish flag — a sporting gesture which symbolised the spirit of the "friendly" finals.

First of seven . . . Di Stefano equalises for Real.

MAY 18, 1960 HAMPDEN PARK, GLASGOW. CHAMPIONS' CUP FINAL.

REAL MADRID 7

(Di Stefano 27, 30, 73, Puskas 36, 48 pen, 58, 63)

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT 3

(Kress 18, Stein 72, 80)

HT: 3-1. **Att:** 127,621.
Ref: Mowat (Scotland).
Real: Dominguez, Marquitos, Pachin, Vidal, Santamaria, Zarraga, Canario, Del Sol, Di Stefano, Puskas, Gento.
Eintracht: Loy, Lutz, Hofer, Weilbacher, Eigenbrodt, Stinka, Kress, Lindner, Stein, Pfaff, Meier.

● Eintracht had performed the near-impossible feat of scoring 12 goals against Rangers in the semi-final, six at home and six in Glasgow. When they scored first before Hampden's bulging terraces, Real's run of European final victories seemed likely to stop at four. Then Alfredo and Ferenc took over, making it 3-1 by half-time.
A somewhat harsh penalty effectively settled the match, even though the Germans kept attacking, realising that defence was doomed. The abiding memory is of Di Stefano racing through alone for the last Madrid goal, within seconds of Stein's first, leaving a line of dejected defenders trailing behind him.
The crowd remained in place long after the final whistle, savouring the delight, little knowing that an era had ended. Real have not been the same since, for all their other domestic successes. What team could be?

NOV 23, 1960 NOU CAMP, BARCELONA. CHAMPIONS' CUP FIRST ROUND, SECOND LEG

BARCELONA 2

(Verges 26, Evaristo 81)

REAL MADRID 1

(Canario 86)

Barcelona won 4-3 on aggregate.
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 112,000.
Ref: Leafe (England).
Barcelona: Ramallets, Olivella, Gracia, Verges, Garay, Segarra, Kubala, Evaristo, Kocsis, Suarez, Villaverde.
Real: Vicente, Marquitos, Casado, Vidal, Santamaria, Pachin, Canario, Del Sol, Di Stefano, Puskas, Gento.

Close-up view . . . referee Reg Leafe sees Juan Evaristo's winner on its way.

● Real had beaten Penarol of Uruguay in the first Intercontinental Cup Final in between the Eintracht match and the meeting with their greatest rivals, Barca. The 2-2 draw in the first leg was the first home game Real had failed to win in Europe: the return — a match of almost superhuman endeavour by both sides — is still remembered as perhaps the greatest ever seen in Spain.
President Bernabeu gave his players a bonus, even though they had lost a European tie for the first time, because he claimed a moral victory after his men had had three goals disallowed and hit the woodwork twice. Barca, however, played their full part in this glorious match, even though their first goal was deflected past Vicente.
They had one score ruled out for offside, and one shot cleared from the line by Gento, of all people. Their victory meant that they became favourites to maintain Spanish supremacy in the tournament, but although they reached the final they lost 3-2 to the emerging Benfica.

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Paolo Rossi, behind the post, scores his first goal for Italy against Brazil in the 1982 World Cup.

MAY 2, 1962 OLYMPIC STADIUM, AMSTERDAM. CHAMPIONS' CUP FINAL

BENFICA 5

(Aguas, Cavem, Coluna, Eusebio 2)

REAL MADRID 3

(Puskas 3)

HT: 2-3. **Att:** 68,000. **Ref:** Horn (Holland).
Benfica: Costa-Pereira, Joao, Angelo, Cavem, Germano, Cruz, Augusto, Eusebio, Aguas, Coluna, Simoes.
Real: Araquistain, Casado, Miera, Felo, Santamaria, Pachin, Tejada, Del Sol, Di Stefano, Puskas, Gento.

Jose Aguas (centre) slots Benfica's first goal past Real Madrid goalkeeper Jose Araquistain.

● Although the holders, Benfica were the outsiders against a Madrid team still very near peak power. On the night, however, the Portuguese played above themselves, Real played below their best. The match is remembered mainly because of the remarkable long-distance shooting, with five of the eight goals scored from beyond the respective penalty areas. Two goals in the first 23 minutes seemed to have put the Spanish champions beyond all catching, but Benfica thought differently — Eusebio in particular. His shot bounced off a post for Aguas to score and start the revival that continued with Cavem's tremendous drive for the equaliser. Puskas went into the history books by completing his second hat-trick in a Champions' Final, only to finish on the losing side, for the second half was Benfica's all the way. Coluna crashed in their third goal, then a penalty and another goal by Eusebio, in the space of three minutes, made sure that the trophy stayed in Lisbon.

Britain's first European trophy . . . Jimmy Greaves (white shirt) slams a shot against Atletico's crossbar.

MAY 15, 1963 FEYENOORD STADIUM, ROTTERDAM. CUP-WINNERS' CUP FINAL

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR 5

(Greaves 2, Dyson 2, White)

ATLETICO MADRID 1

(Collar pen)

HT: 2-0 **Att:** 25,000
Ref: Van Leuwen (Holland).
Tottenham: Brown, Baker, Henry, Blanchflower, Norman, Marchi, Jones, White, Smith, Greaves, Dyson.
Atletico: Madinabeytia, Rivilla, Rodrigues, Ramiro, Griffa, Glaria, Jones, Adelardo, Chuco, Mendonca, Collar

● Tottenham became the first British side to win a European trophy when they hammered a strong Atletico Madrid side. Manager Bill Nicholson was forced to bring in Tony Marchi for the injured Dave Mackay and without Mackay's tenacious work in midfield, Spurs seemed vulnerable.
Yet they reproduced their magnificent double-winning form of two years earlier, and simply demolished Atletico, the holders. Greaves and Dyson scored two goals and the late John White hit the other. Madrid's only reply was a penalty by Collar. Spurs waltzed away from Rotterdam with the Cup . . . and English football had arrived in Europe.

JULY 15, 1966 GOODISON PARK, EVERTON. WORLD CUP FIRST ROUND (GROUP 3)

Janos Farkas volleys Hungary's second goal against Brazil.

HUNGARY 3
(Bene 3, Farkas 58, Meszoly 75 pen)

BRAZIL 1
(Tostao 15)

HT: 1-1. **Att:** 51,387. **Ref:** Dagnall (England).
Hungary: Gelei, Matrai, Kaposzta, Meszoly, Sipos, Szepesi, Mathesz, Rakosi, Bene, Albert, Farkas.
Brazil: Gilmar, D. Santos, Lima, Bellini, Altair, Gerson, Garrincha, Paulo Henrique, Alcindo, Tostao, Jairzinho.

● A classic match on a rainy evening that contained high drama, inspired individual displays by Meszoly, Bene and Albert, and a first World Cup defeat for Brazil since 1954. Although the injured Pele returned for the next match, a succession of brutal fouls by Portuguese players effectively quietened him, and Brazil failed to qualify.

As for Hungary, they were not disgraced when compared with the Puskas team of the 50s: indeed, with better goalkeeping, they would have gone beyond the quarter-finals, where they lost to the tough-tackling Soviet Union. Albert, then, was shackled — something Brazil could not do. He controlled the match, appearing in a variety of positions, to be given a merited ovation at the end, as thousands of Merseyside fans chanted his name. Tostao, Pele's inexperienced replacement, gave Brazil some hope after Bene's solo opener, but a wonderful volley by Farkas restored the lead, and Meszoly, running up like some cricketing fast bowler, sent his penalty crashing past Gilmar to extinguish the last flicker.

JULY 30, 1966 WEMBLEY. WORLD CUP FINAL

ENGLAND 4
(Hurst 19, 100, 120, Peters 78)

WEST GERMANY 2
(Haller 13, Weber 90)

HT: 1-1. **Att:** 100,000.
Ref: Dienst (Switzerland).
England: Banks, Cohen, Wilson, Stiles, J. Charlton, Moore, Ball, Hunt, R. Charlton, Hurst, Peters.
West Germany: Tilkowski, Hottges, Schnellinger, Beckenbauer, Schulz, Weber, Haller, Held, Seeler, Overath, Emmerich.

● The World Cup at last found a place in the game's founder country, proving that England had adapted — to some degree — to foreign styles. Yet it was England's own Stiles, that ferocious little man, and his colleagues who brought them their exhausting victory by applying the English game's greatest virtues: strength, stamina and determination. The Germans were perhaps lucky to equalise on the stroke of normal time, after a doubtful free-kick, but they had little luck elsewhere, playing as they did against a very good team, most of the crowd, and virtually an entire nation watching TV. Would England have won the tournament had they played anywhere other than their own Wembley home? Doubtful. But on the day they scored three opportunist goals and one, making the score 3-2, that will be debated for ever. Hurst's final kick ("They think it's all over . . . it is now!") is perhaps the abiding memory: that and the crazy cup-waving dance round the pitch by Stiles, at a time when restraint on victorious occasions was the still the norm. But then there had never been an occasion as victorious as this one.

Some people are on the pitch, they think it's all over . . . it is now! Geoff Hurst scores England's fourth goal in the last minute of extra time.

MAY 25, 1967 NATIONAL STADIUM, LISBON. CHAMPIONS' CUP FINAL

The Lions of Lisbon . . . Celtic keeper Ronnie Simpson ends another Internazionale attack.

CELTIC 2
(Gemmell 73, Chalmers 85)

INTERNAZIONALE 1
(Mazzola pen 8)

HT: 0-1. **Att:** 45,000.
Ref: Tschenscher (West Germany).
Celtic: Simpson, Craig, Gemmell, Murdoch, McNeill, Clark, Johnstone, Wallace, Chalmers, Auld, Lennox.
Inter: Sarti, Burgnich, Facchetti, Bedin, Guarneri, Picchi, Domenghini, Mazzola, Cappellini, Bicícli, Corso.

● Britain's first victory in the Champions' Cup was achieved by a curious collection of small-money buys and local Glasgow products, under the charismatic management of Jock Stein. Only Auld, rejected by Birmingham, and Simpson, given a free transfer by Stein while at Hibs, had any experience of the game outside Scotland. Yet somehow the parts blended together into a mightily impressive whole: Celtic won all three domestic tournaments that season, as well as conquering an Inter team including eight of their 1965 European winners but badly missing injured midfield general Luis Suarez.

Inter led early, with a penalty by Mazzola on the ground where his father played his last game before his death in the Superga air crash, but Celtic grimly wore down a massed defence: Inter, typical of 70s Italy, seemed almost scared to go past the halfway line. Celtic, in contrast, attacked all the way and deserved more goals, even though they were to be found out in later seasons. Their win might have presaged a real role for Scotland in the wider scheme of things. Sadly, it was not to be.

MAY 29, 1968 WEMBLEY. CHAMPIONS' CUP FINAL

MANCHESTER UTD 4
(Charlton 53, 104, Best 91, Kidd 95)

BENFICA 1
(Graca 89)

● United's earlier dreams of European triumph had died with so many in the Munich snows. At last, a decade late, manager Matt Busby and his players achieved the great ambition: England's first time on top of the European pyramid. The final, United's 50th match in Europe, had its dull moments, despite the vast amount of attacking talent on view, and one of Charlton's rare headed goals seemed sufficient until Graca's late equaliser. Stepney's superb save from Eusebio doused the Benfica fire, and set United blazing instead. Best slipped through solo for a glorious goal, Kidd headed one on his 19th birthday, and Charlton swept in a fourth. At the finish, he wept, and he was not alone. United, as so often, had blazed a trail, one that was to lead to a whole clutch of European honours for English clubs over the next 20 years

HT: 0-0. **AET. 90 mins:** 1-1.
Att: 100,000. **Ref:** Lo Bello (Italy)
United: Stepney, Brennan, Dunne, Crerand, Foulkes, Stiles, Best, Kidd, Charlton, Sadler, Aston.
Benfica: Henrique, Adolfo, Cruz, Graca, Humberto, Jacinto, Augusto, Eusebio, Torres, Coluna, Simoes.

United's Wembley glory . . . Bobby Charlton (dark shirt) sweeps home Manchester United's fourth goal.

JUNE 17, 1970 AZTECA STADIUM, MEXICO CITY. WORLD CUP SEMI-FINAL

ITALY 4

(Boninsegna 7, Burgnich 97, Riva 103, Rivera 111)

WEST GERMANY 3

(Schnellinger 90, Muller 95, 110)

HT: 1-0. **AET. 90 mins:** 1-1.
Att: 80,000. **Ref:** Yamasaki (Mexico).
Italy: Albertosi, Cera, Burgnich, Bertini, Rosato (Poletti), Facchetti, Domenghini, Mazzola (Rivera), De Sisti, Boninsegna, Riva.
West Germany: Maier, Vogts, Schnellinger, Schulz, Beckenbauer, Patzke (Held), Seeler, Overath, Grabowski, Muller, Lohr (Libuda).

Tarcisio Burgnich blasts Italy's third goal past Berti Vogts, Willi Schulz and Sepp Maier.

● One of the most dramatic, if not skilful, matches of the 1970 World Cup with a five-goal spree in extra time — made possible by a German equaliser in injury time. Italy went a goal in front after seven minutes, and there followed 83 minutes of typically defensive Italian football, marshalled by the towering Facchetti. But in the second minute of injury time, Schnellinger — a veteran of four World Cups — equalised with a cross-cum-shot. Even though Beckenbauer was handicapped by a dislocated shoulder, Germany went in front through Muller, after a mistake in the Italian defence. Burgnich levelled, and two minutes before the turnaround, Riva made it 3-2 to the Italians. Muller equalised with his 10th goal of the tournament. But, virtually from the restart, Boninsegna carried the ball upfield before crossing for Rivera to side-foot home. Germany's epic two-hour battle with England in the quarter-final had drained the players, and manager Helmut Schon put this defeat down to that match.

JUNE 21, 1970 AZTECA STADIUM, MEXICO CITY. WORLD CUP FINAL

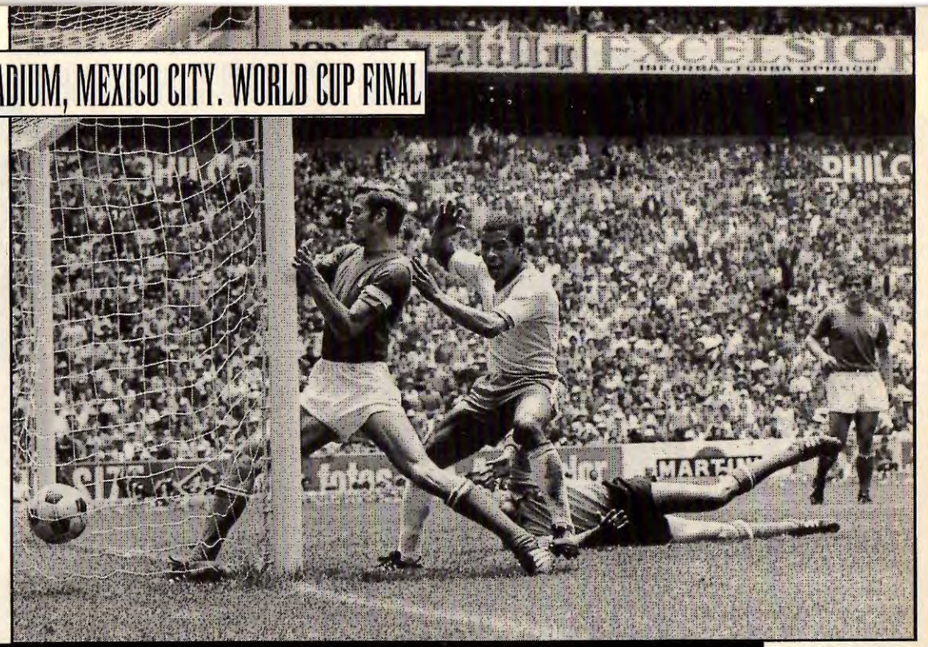
BRAZIL 4

(Pele 10, Gerson 65, Jairzinho 70, Carlos Alberto 86)

ITALY 1

(Boninsegna 37)

HT: 1-1. **Att:** 107,000.
Ref: Glockner (East Germany).
Brazil: Felix, Carlos Alberto, Brito, Wilson Piazza, Everaldo, Clodoaldo, Gerson, Jairzinho, Tostao, Pele, Rivellino.
Italy: Albertosi, Cera, Burgnich, Bertini (Juliano), Rosato, Facchetti, Domenghini, Mazzola, De Sisti, Boninsegna (Rivera), Riva.



Record scorer . . . Jairzinho, who scored in every match, maintains his run with Brazil's third goal against Italy.

● Millions of fans worldwide expected this to be an exciting, attacking game with the winners earning outright ownership of the Jules Rimet trophy. They were not disappointed.
Pele headed Brazil's 100th World Cup goal, which also meant he equalled Vava's achievement of scoring in two finals. Boninsegna equalised eight minutes before half time, but the second half belonged to Brazil and in particular Gerson. He restored the lead with a brilliant turn and left-foot shot from the edge of the box. Five minutes later Gerson and Pele combined for Jairzinho to maintain his record of scoring in each round. Brazil dominated the rest of the game and skipper Carlos Alberto made it 4-1 with another magnificent goal. For manager Mario Zagalo, it meant a third World Cup winner's medal — two as a player and now one as a manager.

JULY 5, 1982 SARRIA STADIUM, BARCELONA. WORLD CUP SECOND ROUND (GROUP C)

ITALY 3
(Rossi 5, 25, 75)

BRAZIL 2
(Socrates 12, Falcao 68)

● The final match in Group C was an epic between the unbeaten Brazilians, who needed a draw to reach the semi-finals, and the Italians, who had to win to stay in the tournament. Just when they needed a new hero, they found one — Paolo Rossi, who had not scored in his four previous matches in the tournament. Socrates soon equalised after the opening goal, but Rossi scored his second after a misunderstanding in defence. Brazil clawed their way back with a stunning goal by Falcao, only for Rossi to complete a memorable hat-trick.

Brazil, considered to be the most attractive side of the tournament by many, had paid the price for their over-confident approach and were punished by the well-organised Italians, who went on to beat West Germany 3-1 in the final.

HT: 2-1.
Att: 44,000.
Ref: Klein (Israel).
Italy: Zoff, Gentile, Collovati (Bergomi), Scirea, Cabrini, Tardelli (Marini), Antognoni, Oriali, Graziani, Conti, Rossi.
Brazil: Waldir Peres, Leandro, Oscar, Luisinho, Junior, Cerezo, Socrates, Zico, Falcao, Serginho (Paulo Isidoro), Eder.

Hat-trick hero . . . Paolo Rossi beats Waldir Peres for his third goal against Brazil.

JULY 8, 1982 SANCHEZ PIZJUAN STADIUM, SEVILLE. WORLD CUP SEMI-FINAL

WEST GERMANY 3 FRANCE 3
(Littbarski 18, Rummenigge 102, Fischer 107) (Platini 26 pen, Tresor 92, Giresse 98)

● This was one of the most exciting, nerve-racking and memorable matches ever — six goals, extra time, one of the World Cup's ugliest incidents, and, for the first time in the tournament, a penalty shoot-out.

Two goals in the first eight minutes of extra time seemed enough for the French. Then Germany brought on half-fit captain Karl-Heinz Rummenigge and he turned the game. Rummenigge pulled a goal back. With 13 minutes left, Hrubesch headed a centre back for Fischer to equalise with his speciality — a bicycle-kick. Penalties then followed, and with the scores level at 4-4 the series entered sudden-death. German keeper Schumacher, was the hero, saving a penalty by Max Bossis — leaving Horst Hrubesch to score the winner. Schumacher, however, was very lucky to be on the pitch. He clattered into Battiston on the edge of the box, leaving Battiston unconscious and needing oxygen. The outcome? Goal-kick, Schumacher was not even booked.

HT: 1-1. **AET. 90 mins:** 1-1. **Ref:** Corver (Holland).
West Germany won 5-4 on penalties.
West Germany: Schumacher, Kaltz, K-H Forster, Stielke, Briegel (Rummenigge), B. Forster, Dremmler, Breitner, Littbarski, Magath (Hrubesch), Fischer.
France: Ettori, Amoros, Janvion, Bossis, Tigana, Tresor, Genghini (Battiston [Lopez]), Giresse, Platini, Rocheteau, Six.
Penalties: Giresse 0-1, Kaltz 1-0, Amoros 1-2, Breitner 2-2, Rocheteau 2-3, Stielke (missed) 2-3, Six (missed) 2-3, Littbarski 3-3, Platini 3-4, Rummenigge 4-4.
Sudden Death: Bossis (missed) 4-4, Hrubesch 5-4.

Thrill in Seville . . . Kaltz of West Germany clashes with Janvion of France.

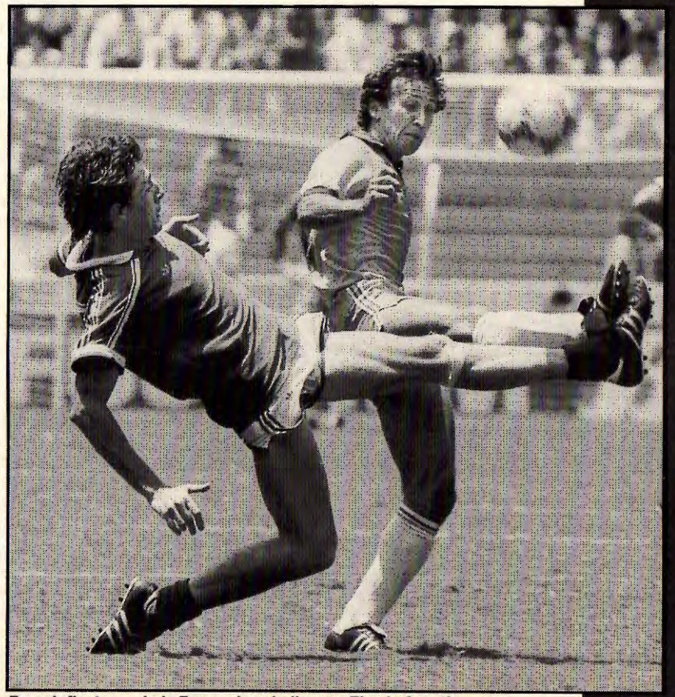
JUNE 21, 1986 JALISCO STADIUM, GUADALAJARA. WORLD CUP QUARTER-FINAL

FRANCE 1
(Platini 40)

BRAZIL 1
(Careca 18)

HT: 1-1. **AET. 90 mins:** 1-1. **Ref:** Igna (Romania).
France won 4-3 on penalties.

France: Bats, Battiston, Amoros, Bossis, Tusseau, Giresse (Ferreri), Tigana, Platini, Fernandez, Stopyra, Rocheteau (Bellone).
Brazil: Carlos, Josimar, Julio Cesar, Edinho, Branco, Alemao, Socrates, Junior (Silas), Elzo, Muller (Zico), Careca.
Penalties: Socrates (missed) 0-0, Stopyra 0-1, Alemao 1-1, Amoros 1-2, Zico 2-2, Bellone 2-3, Branco 3-3, Platini (missed) 3-3, Julio Cesar (missed) 3-3, Fernandez 3-4.



French fiesta . . . Luis Fernandez challenges Zico before the dramatic penalty shoot-out.

● France entered this game at the peak of their form, but faced a difficult test against the Brazilians, who had not conceded a goal in four previous matches. Brazil scored first. Careca finishing off a fine passing move involving Muller and Junior, but France equalised when Rocheteau's cross was prodded home by Platini.
Zico, on as a substitute after 70 minutes, missed a penalty, and Bellone wasted France's best chance four minutes from the end of extra time when the referee played advantage after a foul by Carlos.
So once again the French faced a World Cup penalty shoot-out. Their nerve held, despite a miss by Platini at 3-3. Julio Cesar missed the next kick, and Fernandez wrong-footed Carlos to score the winner. France had triumphed: the Brazilians had failed again.

26 MAY, 1989 ANFIELD. BARCLAYS LEAGUE DIVISION ONE

LIVERPOOL 0
ARSENAL 2
(Smith 52, Thomas 90)

HT: 0-1. **Att:** 41,718.
Ref: Hutchinson (England).
Liverpool: Grobbelaar, Ablett, Staunton, Nicol, Whelan, Hansen, Houghton, Aldridge, Rush (Beardsley), Barnes, McMahon.
Arsenal: Lukic, Dixon, Winterburn, Thomas, O'Leary, Adams, Rocastle, Richardson, Smith, Bould (Groves), Merson (Hayes).

Down the drain . . . Liverpool's season collapses as Thomas fires Arsenal's title-winning goal.

● The final First Division match of 1988-89 was one of the most dramatic League games ever staged, anywhere. Liverpool and Arsenal met in a classic finale, with both sides still in the running for the Championship. Liverpool, with home advantage, needed only to avoid defeat by more than one goal to retain the title. Knowing this may have been their downfall, for instead of taking the game to Arsenal, they seemed content to play for a draw. Arsenal eventually broke through when a free-kick by Nigel Winterburn was headed past Bruce Grobbelaar with the faintest of touches by Alan Smith.
Liverpool complained that Smith did not touch the ball and that the goal, from an indirect free-kick, should not stand. TV pictures clearly showed that Smith had indeed touched it.
A 1-0 defeat would still have been enough to give Liverpool their 18th title and they seemed content to keep the scoreline the same. Then, in the very last minute, the seemingly impossible happened. Kevin Richardson threaded a pass through the defence, the ball rebounded off Steve Nicol and Mickey Thomas showed great composure to slip it past Grobbelaar. Never before had the League Championship been decided on goal difference or in such a dramatic way.

JUNE 24, 1990 SAN SIRO STADIUM, MILAN. WORLD CUP SECOND ROUND

Lone star . . . Klinsmann celebrates the first goal.

WEST GERMANY 2
(Klinsmann 50, Brehme 84)

HOLLAND 1
(R Koeman 86 pen)

HT: 0-0. **Att:** 74,559.
Ref: Loustau (Argentina).
West Germany: Illgner, Reuter, Brehme, Kohler, Augenthaler, Buchwald, Berthold, Littbarski, Voller, Matthaus, Klinsmann (Riedle).
Holland: Van Breukelen, Van Aerle (Kieft), Rijkaard, R. Koeman, Van Tiggelen, Wouters, Witschge (Gillhaus), Winter, Van't Schip, Van Basten, Gullit.

● Two of Europe's best teams met in this frantic game which, though by far the best of the 1990 World Cup, was marred by a confrontation after 20 minutes. Rijkaard upended Voller and was booked. Voller was shown the yellow card for complaining that Rijkaard had spat at him. Voller soon tangled with Van Breukelen, triggering another argument with Rijkaard. Both were sent off and, as they left the pitch, Rijkaard clearly spat at Voller again. A disgraceful episode which soured an otherwise superb game. Klinsmann, who splendidly led the front line on his own, reached a Buchwald cross to score the opener, and Germany went further ahead when Brehme curled a rebound into goal from outside the box. A theatrical tumble by Van Basten gave Koeman a penalty, but it was too little, too late for the European Champions.

JULY 4, 1990 STADIO DELLE ALPI, TURIN. WORLD CUP SEMI-FINAL

One more . . . Lineker adds to his England total with the equaliser.

WEST GERMANY 1
(Brehme 59)

ENGLAND 1
(Lineker 80)

HT: 0-0. **AET. 90 mins:** 1-1. **Ref:** Wright (Brazil).
West Germany won 4-3 on penalties.
West Germany: Illgner, Brehme, Kohler, Augenthaler, Buchwald, Berthold, Matthaus, Hassler (Reuter), Thon, Voller (Riedle), Klinsmann.
Englaand: Shilton, Pearce, Walker, Parker, Wright, Butcher (Steven), Platt, Gascoigne, Waddle, Beardsley, Lineker.
Penalties: Lineker 0-1, Brehme 1-1, Beardsley 1-2, Matthaus 2-2, Platt 2-3, Riedle 3-3, Pearce (missed) 3-3, Thon 4-3, Waddle (missed) 4-3.

● A classic between old rivals. West Germany, the best team in the tournament, came to the match as favourites against a dogged, resilient but not overly skilful England. The first half was mostly England's but the Germans seemed to be finding their form and took the lead when Brehme's free-kick struck Parker and looped into the net over the stranded Shilton. England battled on, and Lineker — who else? — produced the equaliser. Extra time produced no further goals, though Waddle and Buchwald hit the woodwork. So, for the first time in World Cup history, both semi-finals needed a penalty shoot-out. Pearce — normaally so reliable with penalties — had England's fourth kick saved by Illgner. Thon made it 4-3, leaving Waddle to keep England in the match. His shot sailed over the bar and West Germany were through to a record sixth World Cup Final.

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